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SUMMARY OF NEWS.

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Politics of Europe.

The Shipping Report of yesterday merely announced that a vessel was seen standing in below Saugor, supposed to be the *Ganges*, Captain Chivers, returned with the loss of all her masts in the late gales.

The absence of later intelligence from England than that received by the *Teas*, renders it difficult to commence our Paper with that agreeable variety which a more frequent succession of new topics would enable us to present:—and the peculiar arrangement that we have chosen for our Sheets in giving the first to European and the last to Asiatic Intelligence (which has, however, its advantages) often gives an appearance of poverty, and want of novelty to our pages, which is only to be removed as the Reader proceeds.

In the Asiatic Sheets of to-day, for instance, will be found, a Military Order prohibiting Officers from appealing, on subjects connected with discipline, through the Press;—some Extracts of Letters from the Red Sea;—an account of an atrocious outrage on a party proceeding, by water, along the shores of the King of Oude;—and a Selection of the most interesting Articles that appeared in the Papers of yesterday. In one of the European Sheets will be found a short but beautiful picture of the Caravan in the Desert, as valuable for the fidelity of its facts, as for the ease and elegance of its Poetry. All these, however, we have only to enumerate, to show that though our first page may sometimes seem barren, we have portions in reserve that will reward perusal, and to claim the indulgence of the reader, when no Ship arrives, to suspend his judgement on the general content of the JOURNAL until they have been examined throughout.

Of European Politics, the subject of the most anxious expectation is perhaps the contest of the Greeks with their Tyrants of Turkey, and the claims which they have on the assistance of other nations to establish their Independence. Although this is neither a Whig nor a Tory question, but one of humanity, in which it would be supposed at least that all Christians would concur, it is remarkable enough, that in England, in France, and even in India, those who style themselves *par excellence* the Government party, as if rational and liberal opinions were not as compatible with good government as bigotted and illiberal ones, indirectly espouse the cause of the legitimate Ottomans, and endeavour to throw all the odium they can, either by ridicule or exaggeration, on the cause of the Rebel Greeks. By our Calcutta Writers, indeed, love of country is looked on as a drivelling weakness, beneath the sagacity of a modern politician to indulge in; and we therefore have daily sneers thrown out against the "Patriots of Bengal;" as if Patriotism, the theme of admiration, as one of the loftiest of Virtues, in every other part of the civilized world, were to change its nature, and become a mean and grovelling Vice—"on this side of the line" as the GOVERNMENT GAZETTE would say.

Among the various charges against the Greeks, their cruelty at Tripolizza has been laid great stress on. We believe the circumstances of that period have been before adverted to in our pages; but if so, we shall be spared a repetition of a portion of them at least, for the sake of the comment that will follow, and without which it would be less intelligible to the reader. The following is the notice of this subject in an English Paper of December 27.

Capture of Tripolizza.—An account, purporting to be derived from "an authentic source," was published in a Treasury Paper of yesterday evening, detailing some dreadful atrocities which were said to have been perpetrated by the Greeks at the capture of the town of Tripolizza. We are told that the town of Tripolizza being pressed by the Grecian forces, was surrendered by the Turkish garrison upon certain conditions, and that the capitulation was actually concluded between the Bey of Malina and Colocotroni, on the part of the besieging army, and by the Turkish Authorities on the part of the garrison and Turkish inhabitants. In pursuance of the terms of this agreement, a considerable number of the Turks came out of the city, and were amicably received by the Greeks, but on a sudden a "part of the besieging army took possession of one of the gates, and also of the tower, which was accomplished without difficulty or attempt at resistance." The account then proceeds in these terms:—

"The Christian flag was then hoisted on the tower, which became the signal of a general assault by the whole army. The whole night was passed in plunder and in murder, without discrimination of sex or age.

"On the next day nearly three thousand souls, the majority consisting of women and children, were marched from the Greek camps, where they had been staying two days, to a sort of gorge at one side of the town, where they were all stripped naked, and most horribly butchered. The pregnant women had their bellies ripped open. Many of them had their heads struck off, and the heads of some dogs having been struck off, they

[The circumstances omitted are too atrocious for publication.]

"For three following days the carnage continued, and this unrelenting spirit was not directed solely against the Turks. All the Jews who were in the town were seized—the men were put to the torture, and the women and children, as well as the men, were all, without exception, put to death.

"The whole number of persons who perished at Tripolizza amounted to eight thousand, of which nearly one thousand were Jews.

"As it is known that a British gentleman, Mr. Gordon, was "Chef d'Etat Major" of the besieging army, we have great pleasure in being able to state, that although Mr. Gordon was present at the siege, and contributed to its success by his exertions, as he had to the preparations for it by his liberality, he earnestly remonstrated against the treachery in contemplation; and finding all his representations disregarded, he quitted the camp, and has since quitted the service altogether, conceiving that it was neither consistent with his own honour, nor with the honour of his country, to support a cause which was carried on in violation of every principle of good faith and humanity."

It is impossible to read of such atrocities without feeling one's blood run cold with horror at the narrative, but until we know the authority, "the authentic source," from which the intelligence is derived, we must hesitate, even on account of the very barbarity of the scene, in giving our unqualified belief to the statement. It is somewhat remarkable, if not suspicious, that so strong a case of recrimination against the Greeks should appear first in a London Ministerial Paper, the more especially as we find it instantly turned to the purposes for which it might have been prepared, of vilifying and abusing all who in this country have breathed a wish in favour of the cause of liberty in Greece. It is, however, going rather too far to deduce from whatever atrocities

or cruelties the Greeks may commit, an imputation against all who wish success to their exertions, as if they did not lament sincerely such atrocities, or mourn that a cause in itself so glorious as that of regenerating a whole people should lose one spark of its native brightness, or be tarnished by the foul stains of cruelty or perfidy.

We must readily admit that the principle of retaliation cannot justify the commission of such crimes as we find here stated, but it is certain that if this principle could be admitted as an excuse, the Greeks are entitled to all its advantages. The Turks have given them examples of the most refined cruelties. With them the work of murder commenced—murder in its worst form, for it was perpetrated against men innocent, with regard to their assassins, of the work of blood—in cold blood, against men unarmed—sharing with them in the capital of the empire in the daily courtesies of life—reposing with confidence in the security of their pacific habits, and in the protection of the Government. The slaughter of the Greeks commenced in the city of Constantinople, under the eye of the SULTAN, and was not sought to be prevented by him for many months, until the repeated remonstrances of the European Ambassadors at his Court, and the threats of Baron STROGONOFF, compelled him reluctantly and late to issue a Firman commanding his subjects to discriminate between the innocent and guilty. The streets of Adrianople, of Smyrna, and of every considerable town in his empire, gave sanguinary evidence of the barbarity of the Turks, which respected neither sex nor age, nor innocence, and that nothing should be wanted to heap oppression and insult upon the wretched Greeks, the venerable Patriarch of their church was ignominiously hanged and his body flung into the sea; several of their most respected Bishops suffered the same fate, their churches were defiled, and many of them totally burned. At the commencement of the war, while yet the insurrection of the rayas, as the Christian subjects of the Porte are contemptuously styled, was regarded by Turkish intolerance as unimportant, every Greek taken in battle was instantly murdered, and the resolution was ostentatiously published that no mercy was to be shown to the Christian rebels. No faith was kept with them, and on one occasion, when hostages were given by the Greeks into the hands of the Turks, the hostages were put to death, without any pretence of right, though one of them bore the sacred character of a Bishop.

All this, we repeat, will not justify the murder of a single unarmed Turk, but it will teach us so far to moderate our indignation, when we read of cruelties committed by the Greeks, as to prevent us from withdrawing our good wishes from those who have been degraded by a long and brutal servitude, and bestowing our sympathies upon their barbarous oppressors. If the moral and social quantities of the slaves and their tyrants were made the subject of a careful comparison, the beam, we conjecture, would not mark a very decided superiority upon the side of either.

A principal part of the present charge against the Greeks relates to the perfidy which they are supposed to have committed towards the Turks. Upon this point it must be observed, that as yet we have but an *ex parte* account given by the Turks or their partisans; but in the absence of any corrective or contradictory statement upon the part of the Greeks, it may be remarked that even by the shewing of the accusers themselves, so far as their account is consistent with itself, the charge of perfidy is not clearly substantiated. We are told, indeed, that a capitulation was signed, but we are not apprized of a single article contained in it. We, however, can clearly perceive, that the Greeks did not obtain possession of the town in consequence of this capitulation; the town appears to have been surprised by the Greeks, very probably during the continuance of the negotiations, and such being the case, the conquerors pressed in the fullest extent those barbarous rights which the laws of all nations assign to troops who take a town by surprise or storm. Instead of looking for examples in history to prove that all troops who take towns by surprise or storm are entitled to the free indulgence of every crime which it is the purpose of social institutions to prevent, we should search in vain through its dark and

bloody annals for a solitary instance of military forbearance. So long as wars continue to devastate the world, so long must such crimes be committed. In the war that now rages in Greece, we ought not to expect upon the part of the soldiers of that country purer and more exalted notions of moral rectitude than we have ever found in others. The people have been brutalized to the level of the Turks; how therefore can it be hoped that they should wage war with a clemency unknown to more civilized nations? They have been cruelly insulted and oppressed; can it be supposed that they will not retaliate? In the transactions of barbarians and slaves, we must prepare ourselves to encounter the vices that belong to such characters. These vices must be more prominent in a state like that of Greece at present, where the want of a strong controlling power leaves a fuller scope to the display of individual caprices or passions. The only virtue we can expect from them in the first bursting of their chains, is that which the Romans emphatically distinguished by the name of virtue—personal courage. This, to be eventually successful, must be the quality of the people in general, and the praise must be theirs collectively, but nothing could be more unjust than to suffer the crimes of individuals not acting under the commands of a recognized national authority to stain the general character, unless, indeed, it be the attempt to draw occasional excesses into an argument for withholding our sympathies from an unfortunate people struggling to throw off the burden of an intolerable slavery.

The following article, from the *MORNING POST* of the 3d of January, will shew that the Turks are at least not behind their rebel subjects in the cruelties with which they conduct their warfare.

The Greeks.—The Paper which made itself conspicuous lately by publishing incredible accounts of atrocities, said to have been committed by the Greeks, was at last obliged, yesterday evening, to raise a little corner of the veil which conceals the enormities of his friends, the Turks. The necessity was really cruel, but the task was performed, as follows, with much better grace than could have been anticipated: "We regret to state, that the letters by the Turkey Mail this morning, of the 26th November, confirm the intelligence of great excesses having been committed in Constantinople, which in several instances, ended in the murder of Christians. These excesses are ascribed entirely to the sailors landed from the Turkish fleet which arrived from the Archipelago. They brought thirty Greek vessels in as prizes, and on their passing Seraglio Point, these barbarians hung each to the yard-arm three or four Greeks, as trophies of victory; the crews were afterwards allowed to go on shore, where they were guilty of the greatest cruelties. One of the letters we have seen says—His Excellency Lord Strangford has remonstrated strongly with the Porte; and we trust his influence will be successful upon this as upon former occasions."—The same letter; on the subject of the disputes between Russia and Turkey, observes—'The Austrian Internuncio has had a long conference with the Turkish Authorities: all that has transpired is, that no definitive arrangement has yet taken place, but if there is a war, it will be entirely owing to the obstinacy of the Porte, and we think hostilities with such a powerful neighbour, and such internal convulsions, will end in the overthrow of the Turkish Government. We cannot, therefore, think for a moment, that the Divan will thus rush forward on destruction.'—We have received advices of a latter date, Nov. 29, from Constantinople, which make no allusion whatever to the assassination of the Sultan, and state that the outrages of which that city had again been the theatre, were partially repressed. A very heavy gale had been experienced in the neighbourhood, and several ships had been lost. The thirty Greek merchant vessels adorned with the bodies of as many of the Turkish Admiral's own Greek sailors, hanged to make up for the paucity of the captures, and to add to the respectability of the show, had excited much exultation at Constantinople. But notwithstanding the loss of those ships, which had been found almost defenceless at Galaxidi, the naval strength of the Greeks was considered unimpaired.—*Morning Post*.

Ireland.—The gibbet and the bayonet, those specifics which every successive Ministry who have governed Ireland for the last hundred years have recommended as sovereign and infallible remedies for the outrages of which she has been so long the theatre, are now in the course of being administered for the fiftieth time. Their effect, on the present occasion, we may venture confidently to pronounce, will not be different from their effect on former occasions. It is possible they may restore a momentary tranquillity; but leaving, as they must do, every cause of outrage (and atrocity untouched, they will really add fresh fuel to the flames, which will not fail again to burst forth. The proceedings of the Special Commission now sitting at Limerick are chiefly carried on under the sanction of the Whiteboy Act, passed in 1776, and of the Riot Act, passed in 1787. Both of these acts are said, by Mr. CURRAN to be "written in letters of blood;" and Mr. NOWLAN, in his History of Tithes, (p. 13,) distinctly states, that if their provisions were carried into effect, "they would tend more to raise than to quell an insurrection." But the gibbet is ever the ready and perpetual resource of weak and vindictive legislators. Instead of reforming flagrant and acknowledged abuses, and of making such timely concessions to the popular feeling as justice and sound policy alike required, the Parliament of Ireland seem to have had no other object but to protect every species of abuse, and to repress, by dint of severity, the excesses to which the grievances and distresses of the people gave rise. They never made any attempt to interest the mass of the people in the maintenance of security, and in the defence of the State—to give them a *stake in the hedge*, or to teach them to respect the rights of others, by a sense of the advantages they derived from the free enjoyment of their own. Their system was directly the reverse. They endeavoured to perpetuate the most degrading distinctions, and the most revolting abuses; and when the people were driven to despair, they passed acts for their punishment which, as Mr. YOUNG has observed, "would have disgraced the meridian of Barbary!" Oppression produced outrage, and outrage was alleged as a sufficient reason for increasing the severity of the law; this again occasioned fresh outrages, and gave to revenge a deeper and a deadlier dye! And thus it is that oppression, and severity of punishment, by their mutual action and reaction, have changed the character of the Irish people, and transformed a peasantry who are naturally hospitable and generous—*hospitibus per benigna, amore constant*, says CADMUS—into a ferocious and sanguinary banditti. They are at this moment perpetrating their savage murders almost under the very eye of the Judges who are sentencing their companions in crime to the gallows. The Irish are forming sanguine expectations from the presumed liberality of Lord WELLESLEY; and we trust they will turn out to be somewhat better founded than those by which they so lately deluded and deceived themselves.—*Scotsman*.

Literary Notices.—We are informed that Lord Byron has been writing a Burlesque on Southey's Vision of Judgment; if it be possible to write any thing more ludicrous than the original.

The same Nobleman has got a new literary coadjutor in Mr. Leigh Hunt, whom he has invited to reside with him at Pisa: it is stated that the *Trio juncta in uno*, Byron, Shelley and Hunt, are to write some sort of periodical work, and send it to console their native land for their own absence.

The Duke of Rutland's Tour on the Continent is being printed: we understand it will appear in about a month.

Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd, has announced a Tale in 3 vols.

Lieutenant Marshall is preparing for the press a Naval Biography, to consist of Genealogical, Biographical, and Historical Memoirs of all the Flag Officers, Captains and Commanders of his Majesty's Fleet, living at the commencement of the year 1824.

Colonel Stuart has another work of a similar nature nearly ready; a history of the Military raised in the Highlands of Scotland, which will embrace much curious information relative to the Clans and Clanship.—*Literary Gazette*.

Zante.—The island of Zante appears to continue very much agitated, and so unpopular has Sir Thomas Maitland made himself throughout the Ionian Islands, that disaffection towards the British Government will most probably shew itself quickly in every part of the Union. The evident partiality which the head of the Ionian Government displayed at an early period of the present war towards the oppressors of Greece, excited in the breasts of the Ionians a strong feeling of displeasure. This was raised to a high pitch of indignation by the apparent cruelty of the High Commissioner in recently depriving some Parganotes of their right of residence within the Union, on the ground of their having violated the neutrality which it was his Excellency's policy to observe. The Ionians took but little pains to conceal their sentiments, so that even independent of the attack made by the people of Zante upon a party of British troops who interfered for the protection of some Turkish sailors against the fury of the populace, it is probable that Sir Thomas Maitland had good reason to apprehend an insurrection against the British authority. From this apprehension flowed his edict for the general disarming of the people; but the measure was considered by them as a gross and wanton insult, and has alarmingly increased the hostile disposition of the islanders. It was very doubtful, while the Ionian Islands continued tranquil and obedient, whether our possession of them was beneficial to the interests of Great Britain; but should the minds of the inhabitants become alienated from the Government, should they be made to feel the severity of an austere and despotic authority, instead of the protective mildness of a liberal and generous administration, and should it finally be found necessary to maintain our possession by the employment of a large army, and by the exercise of military law, no doubt can any longer subsist, and it becomes clear to demonstration, that either the character of the Government must be ameliorated, or that the ensigns of British power ought, without any delay, to be removed from the sight of a people who have ceased to regard them with sentiments of respect or attachment.—*British Press*.

Guernsey.—A very extraordinary negotiation is at this moment carrying on between Ministers and the Jurats (principal persons) and States of Guernsey. The corn law of 1815 is, it seems, as unpopular with all classes in that island, as it is with the manufacturers of Manchester and Glasgow. To such an extent, indeed, has the aversion of the States to this measure been carried, that they resisted registering the act until about the middle of the present month; and it is probable the act would never have been carried into effect in Guernsey, had not Mr. WESS HALL, and the other wise men who manage the affairs of the agriculturists, taken into their heads, that foreign corn was smuggled from Guernsey into England, to the great prejudice of the agricultural interest! Agreeably to their repeated entreaties, Ministers at length sent peremptory orders to the States of Guernsey to register the act. It is impossible to describe the consternation caused by the receipt of these orders in the island. "A deep and mournful feeling," says the *Guernsey Star* of December 11, from which we have learned these particulars, "for the departing privileges of our country, was strongly depicted on every countenance—a feeling both honourable and creditable to our countrymen. Partaking of the general gloom, and persuaded, that at no period of our history we have had more real cause for mourning, we have this day put on the symbols of that woe which reigns uncontrolled within our bosom."

The States have consented to register the act; but they unanimously declared, that they would not have done so had not Mr. HOBHOUSE, the under Secretary of State, intimated, that it was the intention of Ministers to get the provisions in the Corn Law applicable to the island, modified. The petition of the States to his Majesty in Council, praying for relief from the operation of this law, is drawn up with great talent, and in a bold and manly spirit. We regret that our limits will not admit of its insertion.—*Scotsman*.

A Good Shot.—A few days ago, a gentleman near Tethury, Gloucester, killed three wild geese flying, at one shot; they were of the light grey kind, and weighed nearly 6lbs. each.

Orthography.—The following is a literal copy of a Notice on a gate between Cheltenham and Gloucester: "Here is no public Road; whosoever trespass on wil be pruced to the hutmast Reglar."

Blood Mare.—A lad, a postillion at an inn on the Bath road whilst in the act of rubbing down a blood mare, had his nose taken clean off by the animal.

Birmingham Coaches.—On Thursday evening, about eight o'clock, as one of the Birmingham coaches was going down Leveridge-hill, about sixteen miles from that place, one of the leaders fell down, and died on the spot, it is supposed of a broken heart.

Shocking Accident.—A shocking accident occurred on Saturday last to the infant child of George Morgan, of Windsor, who being left without proper care, approached too near the fire, and was burnt to death. The father was lying in the same room, incapable of assisting the child, being helpless from a paralytic affection.

Distressing Accident.—On Monday last, a distressing accident took place, at the windmill situate at the entrance to the town of Kirkham, Thomas Waddington, the miller, observing a greyhound in eminent danger of being struck by the sails, ran towards him, and, when in the act of drawing the dog from danger, received himself a blow from one of the sails, which shivered his arm, from the elbow to the fingers, in a most dreadful manner. Medical aid was immediately procured, and it was found necessary to amputate the limb, since which we understand the man is doing well.—*Preston Chronicle.*

Warning to Sportsmen.—A shocking accident happened on Tuesday last, at the house of Mr. Mellish, a gentleman farmer, near Haslemere, Surrey. Mr. M. and a friend had been shooting, and after they had returned home placed their loaded guns near the fire to dry, they being in a damp state; when one of the guns from being improperly placed, fell on the floor, went off, and lodged its contents in the knee of Mr. M's nephew; a fine youth of 14. Medical aid was procured as soon as possible; when, in order to preserve life, it was deemed proper to amputate his leg. The young Gentleman lies in a precarious state. It is hoped that the above may be a warning to those sportsmen who leave loaded guns in improper places, as accidents of the same kind are frequently occurring.

Remedy for Sore Eyes.—I have lately seen an application for sore eyes, rapid in its good effects, and so simple and so cheap, that the poor and ignorant may obtain it. Take small sticks of saffron, split in four pieces; put them in a vessel with cold spring water; they impart a glutinous matter to the water. Wash sore eyes in this liquid, which cures them without smart or heat.—*American Farmer.*

Pyrexia.—The Pyrexia are covered with snow as far as Mont Legur, which allows us to hope that the dreadful disorder will be removed far from us. It appears the fever is on the decline.—*Constitutionnel.*

The Plague.—Symptoms of the plague have appeared not only in the suburb of Pera, but even in the city of Constantinople. The progress of a great caravan, which was expected from Asia, has, in consequence, been suspended; it has stopped beyond Smyrna.

Deputies.—A considerable number of Deputies are prevented from attending their duties in the Chambers by illness.

Madrid, Nov. 1.—The number of Monks, of different Orders, who, since the month of November last, have solicited their secularization, amounts to 360.—The Government has published the list of names.

Turkish Fleet.—Extract of a letter from Trieste, Nov. 2:—A vessel has arrived here in eight days from Corfu, bringing letters of the 18th October, from a most respectable merchant there to the Director of the Company of Assurance of this city, giving the following information respecting the Turkish fleet. It consisted of 53 ships of war, with 37 empty vessels they had taken at Galaxidi; it was attacked by 28 Greek vessels, being the vanguard of their whole fleet, and entirely dispersed, the Greeks recovering, at the same time the vessels taken from them. One Turkish corvette was boarded and taken, and seven other ships sunk; another in the port of Cheri, in the island of Zante, and four have not been yet; the remaining forty took refuge in Zante, four of the largest without masts: a French corvette was present at the battle. They write from Zante that the islanders have obliged the English authorities there to send off the 40 Turkish ships that had taken shelter in their port, and that they had even killed four British soldiers. We expect soon to hear of the attack of the shattered remains of this Turkish fleet, and then we hardly think there will be one left to carry the news of the defeat to the Sultan. A small vessel of Spezzia attacked two Turkish brigs and sunk them."

Spanish Ex-Minister.—The Spanish Ex-Minister of Marine is gone to Paris. His object is said to be to request some French ship of war to send to the Colonies.

Barcelona.—Accounts from Barcelona in the French Papers, state, that Dr. Bally, the French Physician, who had been reported to be dead was convalescent, and that Dr. Pariset was restored to health. Very few inhabitants, it is added, remained at Barcelona, and all who returned to Barcelonetta were taken all and died. Tortosa was completely depopulated.

Duchess of Kent.—On Wednesday evening, the Duchess of Kent, with her attendants, visited Drury-lane Theatre, to see the Coronation. Her Royal Highness sat at in Prince Leopold's box.

Ireland.—All the officers belonging to the Regiments serving in Ireland, who had leave of absence, are ordered to join immediately.

Picture of his Majesty.—Sir Thomas Lawrence has nearly finished his beautiful Picture of his Majesty in his Coronation robes. The King sat for the last time at Buckingham House on Monday last.

Anecdote of the King.—On his Majesty's return from his late visit to Hanover, he was waited upon at Rothenkirchen by a deputation of the Miners of the Hartz. The deputation begged permission to present their King with a goblet, out of which they said, George II. and also George III. had drank. The King immediately remembered the latter circumstance, and that, when in his youth, a deputation of the Miners had come to England to wait on the King, his father. His Majesty drank out of the goblet; and three old Miners being presented to him as having been among those who brought it to England, he said good humouredly, "Do you still frequently sing the song which you sang at Windsor—'Gute Nacht war Vetter Michael da!'" As this song is national in the Hartz, it may easily be imagined how pleased the honest miners were with his Majesty's excellent memory and pleasantry.

Traffic of a Great City.—Some idea may be formed of the extent of traffic in the city of London, from the following account of what passed over London Bridge in one day—namely, on the 18th of October, 1810; since which, it is presumed there has been an increase rather than a diminution:—Foot passengers, 56,180; coaches, 871; gigs; and taxed cabs, 520; waggons, 587; carts and drays, 2,579; and horses, 472.

Philadelphia.—A single house in Philadelphia has, within nine months, sold a million of dollars, in gold, to be shipped for England, to pay for foreign manufactured goods.—*Lancaster Intelligencer.*

Sporting at Holkham.—The party of noblemen and gentlemen now on a sporting visit at Holkham, bagged 3000 head of game in the course of a week; one day they killed 498 hares.

MISCELLANEOUS.

—569—

Modern Criticism.

Sample of Modern Criticism, according to the most approved Model of the leading Magazines and Reviews.

"A man must serve his time to every trade,
"Save censure—Critics all are ready made."

English Bards and Scotch Reviewers.

We have long sat in silent and indignant contemplation of the Gothic taste of our countrymen, more particularly with respect to the drama.—The heap of prejudices with which it is warped—the various predilections and illiberal nationalities which mark its decisions—the jealousy with which it cherishes the absurdities of antiquity—which it hoards the rust of barbarism, have excited in us sensations bordering upon disgust. We should still, however, have hushed our angry feelings, nor have attempted to stem the torrent of ignorance, had not the endeavours of our public spirited Managers, to reform the Stage, by gradually softening down the crude productions of the Old School, by excluding all that is harsh and violent, and by judiciously substituting songs in the place of sentences, awakened all that petty virulence which distinguishes weak minds.—In these circumstances, we should forfeit our character, as guardians of the public taste, if we longer remained passive; and, therefore, we are compelled to state, that we hail these salutary changes with unmixed satisfaction; and that we hope to see the day, when Shakspeare will not be tolerated on the Stage, even in his mutilated state—when his plays will be confined to the shelves of collectors, as specimens of the infancy of the drama!

Our philosophy luckily enables us to set wonder at defiance: otherwise we should certainly have been surprised, that after the very able remarks of Voltaire upon the merits of Shakspeare, there should remain any one so obstinately dull as to admire him. The incomparable critic, not content with pointing out the various faults in the plot, action, and language, of our idol's plays, most disinterestedly undertook to translate parts of them into French, in order to shew how incompatible they were with every feeling of correct taste. And he fully succeeded; for, as every Frenchman will bear witness, notwithstanding his endeavours to infuse into these translations some of the spirit of his own genius,—notwithstanding the elegant dress of that polished language, never was there such a heap of dull, cold, vapid indinations.

"It is a singular blessing," says Sterne, "that Nature has formed the mind of man with the same happy backwardness and renitency against convictions, which is observed in old dogs—of not learning new tricks." This blessing the English enjoy in a peculiar measure;—they will not be convinced by Voltaire, but set up a cry of "The golden days of Queen Elizabeth." We can very readily conceive that the play of *Henry VIII.* was a favourite with the Maiden Queen, in consequence of the high flown compliments contained in it; and that *Macbeth* found a protector in James I., both on account of the scene of the piece, and as his Majesty had himself employed his pen against witches and witchcraft. But why these monstrosities should be entailed upon us, who can boast of a Shiel and a Matrin; or, in default of native talent, may have recourse to the natural unaffected sentiment, and moral feeling of the German Theatre, we are at a loss to discover.

As general criticism, however, like general satire, loses half of its effect from a want of application, may be perhaps advisable to point out some one of Mr. Shakspeare's plays. Let us, for instance, take *Twelfth Night*, or *What you Will*,—the piece is tolerably well known—and, from the judicious alterations to which we have already alluded, is somewhat less injurious in its principles than the others, and approaches nearer to the rules of good taste.

It would be insulting our readers to talk of the plot of this comedy; suffice it to say, that it answers exactly to the "alias" of the name—it is "What you Will." We will proceed therefore to the characters:—*Duke Orsino* is represented as a foolish, love-sick prince, who utters a number of fine things in blank verse, which would be still finer if they were intelligible. To this we have no objection.—we quarrel not with "walking gentlemen," with

"Expletive kings, and queens without a name;"

all we require is consistency; whereas *Orsino*, after vapouring about love, and talking of "liver, heart, and brain," during four acts; when he finds his mistress married to another, turns round with perfect sang froid, and betroths his pseudo-page with the following milk and water speech—

..... give me thy hand,
And let me see thee in thy woman's weeds.

The character of *Olivia* is throughout so shameless and unnatural, that it really ought not to be exhibited on the stage. It is unnecessary to say more of this Countess, than that, in the midst of a hypocritical affectation of sorrow for a brother's death, she falls desperately in love, at first sight, with a menial; makes the most indecent advances to him; sub-

mits to his marked scorn, and finishes her course of infamy by a degrading clandestine marriage! Fie, Mr. Shakspeare!

We now come to *Viola*.—This enterprising young lady is no sooner cast upon the coast of Illyria, than she forms the very feasible project of captivating the reigning prince of the country. She is told, indeed, that he is deeply enamoured of another lady; but true courage rises with difficulties. Dr. Johnson has observed upon the rationality of this incident; but that, which we consider as the most reprehensible part of *Viola's* conduct, has escaped the learned Doctor's notice—we mean, her appearing in male attire. We never can approve of a female's wearing breeches;—our objections are of a religious, moral, and political nature—we need say no more.

As to *Sir Toby Belch* who is manifestly a favourite with the author, he has always filled us with horror—who indeed, can help shuddering, when he hears a creature, gifted with reason, utter such language as the following:—"I'll drink to her as long as there is a passage in my throat, and drink in Illyria." Lewdness and profaneness mark his speech—childish buffoonery and gross debauchery, his actions; and, to sum up all, he marries a pert waiting-maid! We would seriously ask, whether conduct so unprincipled, does not demand from poetic justice a more severe punishment than a broken head, and a chance of cuckoldom? Without dwelling upon the improbability of the cheat played upon *Malvolio*, we beg leave to enter our protest against practical jokes, which always betray a lack of real wit. We beg leave also, to state upon our own responsibility, and that without a fear of contradiction, that the custom of cross gartering was never known in Illyria. So much for the author's accuracy! In the character of *Sir Andrew Aguecheek*, Dr. Johnson has very properly reprobated the poet, for turning into ridicule the fatuity of an idiot. But he might have carried his censure much further; for, whoever considers the characters of *Sir Andrew* and the *Crown* with reference to each other, must perceive, that the author, in his delineation of them, makes the most insidious attack upon the higher, privileged orders of Society. While he paints the *Crown* as a man of wonderful shrewdness and sagacity, and puts sentiments into his mouth which would disgrace a Socrates, or a Seneca, he describes the *Knight* ("as tall a man," mark you, "as any in Illyria,"—a man of "three thousand ducats a year,") as a mere wittol! Far be it from us to assert, that Princes, Peers, and Knights are made of a different mould from Mechanics and Peasants, or that Providence has been more liberal of sense to the former than to the latter; but we must say, that such exaggerated pictures, such strong contrasts as the present can have been suggested by nothing else but that execrable spirit of levelling, which has been at all times, more or less the bane of this country.

The most serious charge, however, which we have to bring against the author, is, that having constituted his *Crown* the wisest personage of his play, he makes him a vehicle for the grossest insinuations against the Clergy, and the most unblushing profaneness and infidelity. Thus Act 4, Scene 2, in putting on the *Parson's* gown, he has the assurance to say—"Well, I'll put it on, and I will dissemble myself in't; and I would I were the first that ever dissembled in such a gown." Again, he says to *Malvolio*, "Remain thou still in darkness; thou shalt hold the opinion of *Pythagoras*, ere I will allow of thy wits; and fear to kill a woodcock, lest thou dispossess the soul of thy grandam!" Thus preferring the doctrine of a heathen philosopher to the wholesome truths of Christianity! But the following speech far exceeds the other two:—"Fie thou dishonest Satan! I call thee by the most modest terms; for I am one of those gentle ones that will use the devil himself with courtesy." What! coquet with Satan!! Flirt with the Spirit of Darkness!!! Though, indeed, this should not surprise us; for *Sir Toby*, in another place, says, "This not-for-gravity to play at cherry-pit with Satan." What the game of cherry-pit may be, we know not; but the idea of making a playmate of Beelzebub, causes our very hair to stand on end.

We had intended to have quoted several passages from this play, to prove that the poetry is as extravagant as the prose is immoral, and as the characters are misconceived; but our limits will confine us to two which it has been the fashion to admire, and which may therefore be considered fair samples:—

That strain again, it had a dying fall:
O, it came o'er my ear like the sweet south
That breathes upon a bank of violets,
Stealing and giving odour.

This is mere see-saw; a south wind is but a south wind, and can communicate no odour, but such as it had been impregnated with; and as it is just as likely to have passed over a soap manufactory as a bed of roses, in its way to the violets, the allusion is, from its uncertainty, nonsensical. The other passage is:—

She never told her love,
But let concealment, like a worm i' the bud
Feed on her damask cheek; she pined in thought,
And, with a green and yellow melancholy,
She sat like patience on a monument
Smiling at grief.

If telling her love would have eased her, her silence is only a proof of her folly. 'The worm i' the bud,' to which 'concealment' is compared, must be a caterpillar or a grub—elegant simile! 'She pined in thought,' that is, in idea, in fancy; in other words, she thought she pined. As to the group on the monument, it surpasses our comprehension. It appears that Patience, with a green and yellow melancholy, smiles at Grief; we have yet to be informed what there is in grief to excite a smile. Collins makes use of the expression, 'pale melancholy'; but why she should be thrown into a fit of the jaundice, we cannot guess. It is possible, indeed, that the Poet's mind may have been running upon *Malvolio's* yellow stockings.

We have now done with *Twelfth Night*, and shall merely offer, in conclusion, a few words of advice to Messrs Harris and Elliston. Let them proceed to melodramatize the remaining plays of Shakspeare. We would suggest the propriety of taking *Othello* next; we long to have the speech beginning "Most potent, grave, and reverend Signiors" turned into a 'bravura'; we would also recommend a duet in the smothering scene; so that *Desdemona*, and her cadence, might die together. By these, and similar alterations, we shall be gradually weaned from our silly childish prejudices; and our minds becoming sufficiently purified and sublimated, we shall be enabled to appreciate the *attic wit* and *chaste elegance* of a Theodore Hook and a Larpent; and to relish the *exquisite sentiment* and *high-toned morality* of Mrs. Haller, and of Bertram.

G. R.

Danish Loan.

The following are the terms and particulars of this contract:—

The negotiation was conducted in London on behalf of the Danish Government, by Mr. G. Garson, of the House of Hambro and Sons, of Copenhagen, and Messrs. A. F. Haldimand and Sons, of London, the contractors. The loan is nominally to the amount of 3,000,000*l.* sterling; for two-thirds of that sum the Danish Government issue special bonds payable to the bearer, and countersigned by Messrs. A. F. Haldimand and Sons, in the denomination of pounds sterling, and varying in amount from 100*l.* to 1000*l.* each. To these bonds are attached eighty-two half-yearly dividend warrants.

The remaining one-third of the loan is in the denomination of marks banco, at the rate of 27 marks and 12 shillings, Hamburgh banco; equal to a Cologne mark of fine silver. To these bonds, which are of 1,400 and 2,800 marks banco, eighty-two half-yearly dividend warrants are also attached.

Denmark engages that one-half of the entire loan shall not be issued until the year 1826, when the special bonds, of which it is composed, will be remitted to London, to be countersigned by Messrs. A. F. Haldimand and Sons.

Interest on the loan is at the rate of five per cent. per annum, payable in London, without deduction, by Messrs. B. A. Goldschmidt and Co. on the 30th June and 31st December of each year. The dividends on the bonds, which are in marks banco, to be reduced to sterling money at the current price in London of the ounce of standard silver in bars.

Redemption of the loan will be completed in forty years, from the 30th June, 1822. For this purpose the agents of the Danish Government are commanded to purchase, in the London markets, bonds to the amount of 60,000*l.* annually, for the first twenty-five years; 90,000*l.* annually, for the ensuing ten years; and 120,000*l.* annually for the last five years. The bonds so purchased are to be destroyed by being cut in half, of which one part will be sent to Copenhagen, and the other be deposited in the Bank of England, in the presence of the Danish Ambassador, the agents of the Government, and of a notary public, in the mode adopted for the liquidation of the Prussian bonds.

The securities pledged for the interest and redemption of this loan, are 1st. The revenue arising from the tolls of the Sound or Sound Dues.—2d. The mortgages and securities for money advanced by Denmark to the proprietors of estates in her West India Islands.—3d. The nett revenue of the islands of St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. John's.

The produce of these revenues, on an average of the last six years, it has been ascertained, had exceeded the annual sum of 250,000*l.* Mortgage documents, duly executed, of the whole of them, are to be deposited in the Bank of England, under the joint seal of the contractors, the Danish Minister, and of a notary public.

In addition to these revenues, Denmark pledges, generally, all her other revenues which have not been specially assigned to other purposes.

DEATHS.

At Curacao, on the 27th of September, Admiral Peter Lewis Brion, Commander-in-Chief of the Columbian Naval forces, aged 39.

Lately, at St. Thomas's, Lieut. Edward Dwyer, formerly commanding his Majesty's schooner *ELIZABETH*.

Cain, a Mystery.—By Lord Byron.

It is observed by the Editor of the *LITERARY GAZETTE*, that "the only truly admirable passages in this drama are those in which human passions are painted. In these, as in all his other works, the Author is concentrated, deep, full of pathos, and dropping from his veins the richest blood of poetry. Were all like these, with what different emotions would this poem have been read; but these are only the bright stars of a black night, throwing an unhallowed glimmering through the stormy clouds. The pains taken to shake the faith of believers in revelation ever obtrude, like rack scudding after rack, to remind us, that the bright specks are but lamps to a sepulchre; dismal fires to render the darkness more hideous."

The subject of the mystery is the death of Abel.—The scene lies on the verge of Eden, where Adam and his family are offering sacrifice and prayer, excepting Cain, whose sullen pride refuses prayer and offering. The drama opens with this beautiful

HYMN.

Adam.—God, the Eternal! Infinite! All-Wise!
Who out of darkness on the deep didst make
Light on the waters with a word—all hail!
JEHOVAH, with returning light—all hail!

Eve.—God! who didst name the day, and separate
Morning and night—till then divided never—
Who didst divide the wave from wave, and call
Part of thy work the firmament—all hail!

Abel.—God! who didst call the elements into
Earth, ocean, air, and fire, and with the day
And night, and worlds which these illumine
Or shadow, madest beings to enjoy them,
And love both them and thee—all hail! all hail!

Adah.—God, the Eternal! Parent of all things!
Who didst create those best and beauteous beings,
To be beloved, more than all, save thee—
Let me love thee and them—all hail! all hail!

Zillah.—O God! who loving, making, blessing all,
Yet didst permit the serpent to creep in,
And drive my father forth from Paradise,
Keep us from further evil—hail! all hail!

Cain's Description of his Sister Adah.

Cain.—The loveliest thing I know is loveliest nearest,
My sister Adah.—All the stars of heaven,
The deep blue noon of night, lit by an orb
Which looks a spirit, or a spirit's world—
The hues of twilight—the sun's gorgeous coming—
His setting indescribable, which fills
My eyes with pleasant tears as I behold
Him sink, and feel my heart float softly with him
Along that western paradise of clouds—
The forest shade—the green bough—the bird's voice—
The vesper bird's which seems to sing of love,
And mingles with the son of cherubim.
As the day closes over Eden's walls:—
All these are nothing, to my eyes and heart,
Like Adah's face; I turn from earth and heaven
To gaze on it.

A Child sleeping.

Cain.—How lovely he appears! his little cheeks.
In their pure incarnation, vying with
The rose-leaves strewn beneath them,

Adah.....And his lips, too,
How beautifully parted! No; you shall not
Kiss him—at least not now; he will awake soon—
His hour of mid-day rest is nearly over;
But it were pity to disturb him till
'Tis closed.

Cain.....You have said well; I will contain
My heart till then. He smiles, and sleeps! Sleep on
And smile, thou little, young inheritor
Of a world scarce less young: sleep on, and smile!
Thine are the hours and days when both are cheering
And innocent! thou has not pluck'd the fruit—
Thou know'st not thou art naked! Must the time
Come thou shalt be amerced for sins unknown,
Which were not thine nor mine? But now sleep on;
His cheeks are reddening into deeper smiles,
And shining lids are trembling o'er his long
Lashes, dark as the cypress, which waves o'er them;

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Half open, from beneath them the clear blue
Laughs out, although in slumber. He must dream—
Of what? Of Paradise!—Ay! dream of it,
My disinherited boy! 'Tis but a dream;
For never more thyself, thy sons, nor fathers,
Shall walk in that forbidden place of joy.

Adah. Soft! he awakes. Sweet Enoch!

[She goes to the child.

Oh, Cain! look on him; see how full of life,
Of strength, of bloom, of beauty, and of joy.
How like to me—how like to thee, when gentle,
For then we are all alike; is't not so, Cain?
Mother, and sire, and son, our features are
Reflected in each other; as they are
In the clear waters, when they are gentle, and
When thou art gentle. Love us, then, my Cain!
And love thyself for our sakes, for we love thee.
Look! how he laughs and stretches out his arms,
And opens wide his blue eyes upon thine,
To hail his father; while his little form
Flutters as wing'd with joy. Talk not of pain!
The childless cherubs well might envy thee
The pleasures of a parent! Bless him, Cain!
As yet he hath no words to thank thee, but
His heart, will, and thine own too.

Eve's Malediction upon Cain.

Eve. May all the curses
Of life be on him! and his agonies
Drive him forth o'er the wilderness, like us
From Eden, till his children do by him
As he did by his brother! May the swords
And wings of fiery cherubim pursue him
By day and night—snakes spring up in his path—
Earth's fruits be ashes in his mouth—the leaves
On which he lays his head to sleep be strew'd
With scorpions! May his dreams be of his victim!
His waking a continual dread of death!
May the clear rivers turn to blood as he
Stoops down to stain them with his raging lip!
May every element shun or change to him!
May he live in the pangs which others die with!
And death itself wax something worth than death
To him who first acquainted him with man!
Hence, fratricide! henceforth that word is Cain,
Through all the coming myriads of mankind,
Who shall abhor thee, though thou wert their sire!
May the grass wither from thy feet! the woods
Deny thee shelter! earth a home! the dust
A grave! the sun his light! and heaven her God!

THE CARAVAN IN THE DESERT.

Call it not Loneliness, to dwell
In woodland shade, or hermit dell;
To pierce the forest's twilight maze,
Or from the Alpine summit gaze;
For Nature there all joyous reigns,
And fills with life her wild domains:
A bird's light wing may break the air,
A fairy stream may murmur there;
A bee the mountain-rose may seek,
A chamois bound from peak to peak;
An eagle, rushing to the sky,
Wake the deep echoes with his cry;
And still some sound, thy heart to cheer,
Some voice, though not of man, is near.

But he, whose weary step has trac'd
Mysterious Afric's awful waste,
Whose eye Arabia's wilds hath view'd,
Can tell thee what is Solitude!
It is, to traverse lifeless plains
Where everlasting stillness reigns,
And billowy sands, and dazzling sky,
Seem boundless, as Infinity!
It is, to sink with speechless dread
In scenes unmeet for mortal tread,
Sever'd from earthly being's trace,
Alone amidst unmeasur'd space.

'Tis noon—and fearfully profound
Silence is on the desert round.
Supreme she reigns, above, beneath,
With all the attributes of Death!

No bird the blazing heav'n may dare,
No insect 'bide the scorching air;
The ostrich, though of sun-born race,
Seeks a more shelter'd dwelling-place;
The lion slumbers in his lair,
The serpent shuns the noontide glare;
But slowly winds the patient train
Of camels, o'er the blasted plain,
Where they and man may brave alone
The terrors of the burning zone.

Faint not, oh Pilgrims! though on high
As a volcano flame the sky;
Shrink not, though, as a furnace glow,
The dark red seas of sand below;
Though not a shadow, save your own,
Across the dread expanse is thrown:
Mark, where your feverish lips to lave,
Wide spreads the fresh transparent wave!
Urge your tir'd camels on, and take
Your rest beside yon glist'ning lake;
Thence, haply, cooler gales may spring,
And fan your brows with lighter wing.
Lo! nearer now, its glassy tide
Reflects the date-tree on its side:
Speed on! pure draughts and genial air,
And verdant shade await you there;
Oh! glimpse of heav'n! to him unknown
That hath not track'd the burning zone!
—Forward they press—they gaze dismay'd—
The waters of the desert fade!
Melting to vapours, that elude
The eye, the lip, their brightness woo'd.*

What meteor comes?—a purple haze
Hath half obscur'd the noontide rays:
Onward it moves in swift career,
A blush upon the atmosphere;
Haste, haste! avert th' impending doom,
Fall prostrate!—'tis the dread Simoom!
Bow down your faces—till the blast
On its red wing of flame hath past,
Far bearing o'er the sandy wave,
The viewless angel of the grave.

It came—'tis vanish'd—but hath left
The wanderers c'en of hope bereft;
The ardent heart, the vigorous frame,
Pride, courage, strength, its power could tame;
Faint with despondence, worn with toil,
They sink upon the burning soil;
Resign'd, amidst those realms of gloom,
To find their death-bed and their tomb.

But onward still!—yon distant spot
Of verdure can deceive you not.
Yon palms, which tremulously seem'd
Reflected as the waters gleam'd,
Along the horizon's verge display'd,
Still rear their slender colonnade,
A landmark, guiding o'er the plain,
The Caravan's exhausted train.
Fair is that little Isle of Bliss,
The Desert's emerald Oasis.
A rainbow on the torrent's wave,
A gem, embosom'd in the grave,
The sunbeam of a stormy day,
Its beauty's image might convey;
Beauty, in horror's lap that sleeps,
While silence round her vigil keeps.

Rest, weary Pilgrims! calmly laid
To slumber in th' Acacia-shade.
Rest, where the shrubs your camels brise,
Their aromatic breath diffuse;
Where softer light the sunbeams pour,
Through the tall palm and sycamore,
And the rich date luxuriant spreads
Its pendent clusters o'er your heads
Nature once more, to seal your eyes,
Murmurs her sweetest lullabies;

* The mirage, or nitrons sand assuming the appearance of water.

† The extreme languor and despondence produced by the Simoom, even when its effects are not fatal, have been described by many travellers

Again each heart the music hails,
Of rustling leaves and sighing gales;
And oh! to Afric's child how dear!
The voice of fountains gushing near!
Sweet be your slumbers! and your dreams,
Of waving groves and rippling streams!
Far be the serpent's venom'd coil
From the brief respite won by toil!
Far be the awful shades of those
Who deep beneath the sands repose,
The hosts, to whom the desert's breath
Bore swift and stern the call of death!
Sleep! nor may scorching blast invade
The freshness of th' Acacia-shade;
But gales of heav'n your spirits bless
With life's best balm—forgetfulness;
Till night from many an urn diffuse
The treasures of her world of dews.

The day hath clos'd—the moon on high
Walks in her cloudless majesty.
A thousand stars to Afric's heav'n
Serene magnificence have given;
Pure beacons of the sky, whose flame
Shines forth eternally the same,
Blest be their beams! whose holy light
Shall guide the camel's footsteps right,
And lead, as with a torch divine,
The Pilgrim to his Prophet's shrine.

—Rise! bid your Isle of Palms adieu,
Again your lonely march pursue,
While winds of night are freshly blowing,
And heav'n's with softer beauty glowing.

—Tis silence all—the solemn scene
Wears, at each step, a sadder mien;
For giant-rocks, at distance pil'd,
Cast their deep shadows o'er the wild.
Darkly they rise—what eye hath view'd
The caverns of their solitude?
Away!—within those awful cells,
The savage lord of Afric dwells!
Heard ye his voice?—the Lion's roar
Swell as when billows break on shore;
Well may the camel shake with fear,
And the steed pant—his foe is near.
Haste, light the torch—bid watch-fires throw
Far o'er the waste a ruddy glow;
Keep vigil—guard the bright array

Of flames that scare him from his prey!
Within their magic circle press,
Oh wanderers of the wilderness!
Heap high the pile, and, by its blaze,
Tell the wild tales of elder days:
Arabia's wondrous lore—that dwells
On warrior deeds and wizard spells,
Enchanted domes, 'mid scenes like these,
Rising to vanish with the breeze;
Gardens, whose fruits are gems, that shed
Their light where mortal may not tread,
And genii, o'er whose pearly halls,
Th' eternal billow heaves and falls.
With charms like these, of mystic power,
Watchers! beguile the midnight hour.

Slowly that hour hath roll'd away,
And star by star withdraws its ray.
Dark children of the sun! again
Your own rich Orient hails his reign.
He comes, but veil'd; with sanguine glare
Tinging the mists that load the air;
Sounds of dismay, and signs of flame,
Th' approaching hurricane proclaim.
Tis death's red banner streams on high—
Fly to the rocks for shelter—fly!
Lo! darkening o'er the fiery skies,
The pillars of the desert rise!
On, in terrific grandeur wheeling,
A giant-host, the heav'n's concealing,
They move like mighty genii-forms,
Towering immense 'midst clouds and storms.
Who shall escape? with awful force
The whirlwind bears them on their course;

They join—they rush resistless on—
—The landmarks of the plain are gone!
The steps, the forms, from earth effac'd
Of those who trod the boundless waste!
All whelm'd, all hush'd!—None left to bear
Sad record how they perish'd there!
No stone their tale of death shall tell,
—The desert guards its mysteries well!
And o'er th' unfathom'd sandy deep
Where low their nameless relics sleep,
Oft shall the future Pilgrim tread,
Nor know his steps are on the dead!

East Indies and China.

The Third Report of the Committee appointed by the House of Commons, in the last session, to consider of the means of maintaining and improving the foreign trade of the country, has been printed. It will be recollected that to this Committee was referred the Report communicated by the Lords, on the trade with the East Indies and China. The Committee begin by a general view of the peculiar regulations which govern the commercial intercourse of this country with the East Indies; next consider the commerce of those possessions with other parts of the world, and generally the trade of other countries included within the limits of the Charter of the East India Company, so far as the United Kingdom is interested; and after observing, in regard to the trade with India, upon the "inexpediency of continuing the restriction upon the tonnage of vessels, if it can be done away without interfering with the rights of the East India Company," and expressing their "hope and confidence, that the other restrictions which the system of 1813, imposes may be put in force by the Court of Directors and by the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, with a constant recollection of the inconvenience of all commercial restriction, and the necessity of alleviating it wherever it cannot be removed"—they conclude as follows:—

"As to China, it is unnecessary for them to deprecate, because the House would assuredly never contemplate, any interference with that branch of Parliament, with the monopoly secured by law to the East India Company.

"Nor are they prepared to recommend as desirable, independently of the consideration of public faith, any interference with that branch of the China trade, which is actually and profitably conducted by the Company, and constitutes their most plentiful resource in aiding the administration of the countries temporarily intrusted to their government.

"If your Committee were clearly satisfied that the monopoly enjoyed and exercised by the Company, of the supply of Tea to the United Kingdom, would be in great danger of being either lost or seriously injured, through the regulated admission of British traders to the ports of China, for the purpose of carrying on those branches of trade in which the Company has no immediate concern; and that this danger would be the peculiar consequence of a relaxation of the monopoly in favour of British merchants, while in the hands of foreigners a similar traffic may flourish without injury to the Company,—they would readily admit that the duty of the Company might call on them to object to any modification whatever in either branch of their monopoly. British subjects must, in such case, be still prohibited from resorting to Canton, and from concerning themselves directly in any branch of the trade in Tea.

"But, after a full consideration of the subject, and of the evidence taken by them, and communicated by the Lords, your Committee cannot concur in all the apprehensions which the East India Company appear to entertain, of the consequences of a partial relaxation of their monopoly; and on the other hand, they concur in the substance of the opinion stated in the Report of the Committee of the Lords referred to them, that under certain regulations calculated to obviate the principal objection that has been stated, without interfering with the monopoly of the British market enjoyed by the East India Company, the British merchant might be safely admitted to a participation in the direct trade with the dominions of the Emperor of China: at the same time considering, that as the monopoly, in its strictest form, is secured by law to the Company, they can only submit the evidence, and their observations upon it, to the House."

DEATHS.

On the 16th of Dec. at Lissendrum, Aberdeenshire, Maurice George Bisset, Esq. of Knighton, Isle of Wight, in his 65th year.

On Thursday, the 27th of Dec. after a few hours illness, in the 21st year of her age, Mrs. Quinton, wife of Mr. John Quinton, of Portsea, and eldest daughter of Mr. Thos. Coker, of that town.

ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

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Discussion of Military Grievances.

The following General Order, by His Excellency the Commander in Chief, appeared in the *JOHN BULL* of yesterday, prohibiting, under the severest penalties, Officers of the Indian Army from appealing through the Press against any supposed Grievance or Injury, instead of seeking redress through the regular channel of application to their Military Superiors. We owe it to our numerous Military Friends and Correspondents throughout India, to republish this important Document without delay; and to call their attention to its tenor, as well for their interests as our own: The following is the Order in question:—

Extract from General Orders issued by His Excellency the Commander in Chief, dated Head Quarters, Calcutta, 8th June 1822.

"The Commander in Chief has observed with great dissatisfaction, a practice indulged by Officers, or by Persons assuming that character, of addressing Anonymous Complaints to the Public, thro' the News Papers, respecting imagined Professional Grievances. It is visible the Reader cannot assure himself that any Particular Case so stated, is not fallaciously represented, thro' the Inexperience, the Miscomprehension, or the Perverse Views of the Writer; consequently the Appeal is essentially devoid of any possible utility. But it is obvious that in this Procedure, the Legitimate Sources of Redress are neglected: So that the purpose must be to give a general impression of Inattention, Oppressiveness, or Injustice in those with whom the Superintendence of such Concerns is lodged. The extreme Mischief and Improbability of these Endeavours have probably not been perceived by the Writers; whom the Commander in Chief is willing to regard as having yielded only to a momentary Inconsiderateness. The habit, however, of an Officer's thus casting off his just and requisite dependence on his Military Superiors must not be permitted. The Commander in Chief, therefore, in the strictest manner, prohibits Officers from sending to the News Papers any such Anonymous Representations as are above described. Should a Letter of that nature henceforth be traced to any Officer (and means will be taken to make the discovery almost inevitable) the Commander in Chief will immediately submit to the Governor General in Council, the necessity of suspending the Individual from Duty and Pay, while a solicitation is made to the Honorable Court, for his entire removal from the Service."

It will be scarcely necessary for us to remark that the prohibition above specified is confined to subjects which are at least of questionable utility, and might, in many instances, tend to the relaxation of that discipline without which no Army or Corps could long continue to exist. If it is within the knowledge of the Chief Authorities, with whom the regulation and discipline of the Army rests, that mischiefs have occurred from any particular description of Appeals through the Press, it is undoubtedly within their province to issue such Regulations as may seem to them best calculated to prevent its further occurrence, for the guidance of all those who are amenable to Military Law.

The sentiments of our present Ruler, on the benefits of Free Discussion generally, through the medium of the Press, are, however, on record, and cannot be annulled by such an Order as this: we request, therefore, the particular attention of our Military Correspondents to the true nature of its prohibitions; and while we shall fully and cordially concur in the views of the Order, so far as to decline the insertion of what may appear on the face of it to be an infringement of a positive and clearly defined Law, we still hope that the talent and information, to be found in the Army of India to as great an extent perhaps as in any Army in the world, united as it is too with the favorable circumstances of more leisure, and newer ground for observation than elsewhere exists, will not be the less exerted on subjects of greater and much more general interest to the community at large than the mere question of "Whether a Sentry should

be relieved in any particular manner, or a Monthly Return made out according to a prescribed form," and other similar enquiries, which may no doubt as well be answered on the spot, as by being proposed through the Press:

For ourselves, we are heartily glad that this Order has been made public; and we should like to see all other subjects that may be demand so objectionable as to be likely to bring the writers on them into unexpected difficulty, prohibited in the same clear and unequivocal manner;—so that whoever sinned in this respect, might do so with the full knowledge of the penalty before him, and be left wholly without excuse. It is the uncertainty of the limit, and the disproportion of the penalty to the crime, that has been the great difficulty to a right understanding with regard to the Indian Press. If the Law of England, and Trial by Jury, were considered sufficient, as was once conceived, and is still indeed the opinion of many, there would be no difficulty, as long as honest Jurymen, independent Barristers, and upright Judges, were to be found in the Supreme Court. If it were necessary to superadd particular Regulations, like the one quoted above, suited to the peculiar circumstances of the country in which we live, there would be still no difficulty in obeying these, provided they were clearly defined and generally understood. Even the Censorship itself—all blighting as its influence must be on the exertions of thought and the expansion of mind—would at least leave the writer or publisher in comparative safety, as no obnoxious article that could subject them to ruin, would then be permitted to appear.

But the most unenviable footing on which any Press could possibly be put, is that of a professed and understood Freedom, or responsibility to the Laws and a Jury only, which should induce (we will not say entrap) ardent and zealous minds, in the full confidence of this understanding, to express themselves with that freedom which the Laws warrant; and then to find that some individual feeling or some irresponsible judgement should be permitted to denounce as dangerous what the Law considered innocent, and, without a hearing or defence, inflict a punishment, not only wholly disproportioned to any offence through the Press, but one which no one is permitted to enquire into the justice of, though it should involve the dearest interests of the individual on whom it might be inflicted.

It is for this reason that we approve of any defined prohibitions, rather than the frightful and appalling doctrine that justifies TRANSMISSION, without appeal to Judge or Jury, without hearing what its victim may have to urge in his defence, and without even condescending to acquaint him with the nature and extent of his crime. That there are men whose views differ so widely from our own, as to regard Summary Banishment as a wholesome and necessary terror to be held over the Press of this Country, we have had abundant proofs in the pages of no less than three of the existing Newspapers of the Settlement, who seemed to feel a pleasure in clanking their chains, and telling the world how they admired the shackles that bound them; though we are persuaded that those very Papers would be the first to raise an outcry if a Whig Government should break up their Presses and banish them and their families, because they were conspicuous in their defence of Tory doctrines. Yet it is only by reversing the case, and making it their own, that we can see their pusillanimity and perverseness in its true light.

Happily, however, we believe that their influence is far less than they imagine: and that base and ungenerous as their endeavours to bring the Freedom of the Press into disrepute have been, they will not ultimately succeed, because the spirit of the age, experience, and common sense, are all against them. Mr. Burke's opinion on the value of a Free Press to India is well known. Lord Hastings's sentiments on that subject will never be forgotten. And the philosophical Historian of India, Mr. MILL, whenever he touches on this topic, expresses the same sense of its value. There is one passage of his Work indeed, so apposite, that we cannot refrain from quoting it.

"If the government would make the faculty of reading useful to the people of India, it must take measures for giving them useful books. There is one effectual measure for this purpose; and there never was, and never will be another; and that is the Freedom of the Press. Among the other admirable effects of a Free Press, one is, that it makes it the interest of Government that the people should receive the highest possible instruction; compels the Government to exert itself to the utmost in giving them instruction; to the end, that the people may not be in danger of being misled by misrepresentation; and that the Government may be assured of their attachment, whenever it deserves it. The Indian Government, however, if a conclusion from its past may be drawn to its future conduct, will not choose a Free Press for the first of its ameliorating agents. Considering the mental state of the people of India, it is possible that among them, at the present moment, the unrestrained use of the Press might be attended with inconveniences of a serious nature, and such as would surpass the evils it would remove. There is no people, however, among whom it may not be introduced by degrees. The people of India, it is certain, ought to receive, as one of the indispensable instruments of improvement, as much of it as they can bear; and this would soon prepare them, if properly encouraged, for the receipt of more, and hence, by rapid steps, for the enjoyment of it, in all its fulness, and all its efficiency.* The Government of India is told, indeed, by one of its own servants, from whose recorded instructions it might learn much, that something far beyond the power of mere schooling, a power which in India cannot be strong, is required to work any beneficial change in the character of the people committed to its charge. "The vices and the crimes of the people," says Sir Henry Strachey, "proceed from their poverty and ignorance; and I do not conceive they are likely to grow much richer or wiser, while the present state of things exists." By the present state of things he undoubtedly means, the present state of the laws, and the government; on which every thing else depends. What he declares, therefore, is, that under the present state of the laws and government, the improvement, either of the circumstances, or of the morals of the people, is utterly hopeless; and that a fundamental change must take place in these, the primary sources of good and evil, before any change can take place in the streams they send forth. Next to the direct operation of ameliorated laws upon the intellectual and moral character of the natives, would be that diffusion of Englishmen in the society, by means of Colonization, from which we have already seen that so many important consequences would flow."—*Mill's History of British India*, vol 5, pp. 542-44, 8^{vo}. 1820.

Leaving, therefore, untouched, the subjects which the General Order of the Commander in Chief so strictly prohibits (and we feel that nothing of importance to the community at large is touched by this prohibition), let us at least make the best possible use of so much Freedom of the Press as the Government is pleased to grant. Our only desire is that it shall be made the instrument of as much good as is practicable, and with the least possible mixture of evil:—for it is unreasonable to expect *unmixed* good in any institution that springs up surrounded by human imperfections:—Let our Civil and Military Correspondents, wherever they may be scattered

* The curious paradox regarding the India Press is, that the Natives who are supposed to be not sufficiently educated to be trusted with a Free Press, are under no restraints whatever, neither Censorship—Regulations—nor fear of Transmission;—while the English community of India, who, taken as a body, are better educated, more attached to the Government of the Country, and have more to lose and less to gain than any other class of people in the world, by a licentious Press, —are the only persons whom it is thought necessary to put under any other restraints than those of the Law. This appears to us as poor a compliment to their fidelity, as it is to their understandings. We do not speak of the Military, because they are of course subject to Military Law; but we speak of the great body of the Civil Service, British Merchants, and the respectable community of Englishmen in India at large, who appear, so as at least, to be as fit to be trusted with a Free Press, as the Natives, who have now four Newspapers of their own. We may be mistaken; but this is our opinion.—Ed.

over the face of this extensive empire, reflect on how much there is to do before India can be brought to that state of improvement of which she is so capable; and until it be permitted to Englishmen to diffuse themselves by means of Colonization among the people of the land (which every reflecting mind must desire to see speedily accomplished) let us endeavour at least, few as we are, to acquit ourselves well of the debt we owe to our country and to mankind, by exerting ourselves to remedy the deficiency of numbers; and, making the Press the great medium of disseminating all that can advance the interests of true knowledge and virtuous happiness, let us keep always in our recollection that admirable sentence of the heroic Nelson—

"ENGLAND EXPECTS EVERY MAN TO DO HIS DUTY."

Letters from the Red Sea.

The Dawk of Sunday brought us Letters from Mocha via Bombay, dated the 9th, 14th and 16th of January last, from which we make a few Extracts. The increased facilities of pursuing that route to England, have led so many persons to contemplate returning home by this way, that the movements of individuals, with the little obstacles they may still have to contend with, the state of the seasons, winds, weather, &c. are become subjects of interest to many, and induce us to be more free in our Extracts on that account, as our Letters are from a Gentleman of the Civil Service who left the Presidency in July last, and after a Tour through India embarked at Bombay soon after Sir John Malcolm's party, to proceed to England by the Red Sea. He says:—

"On the 9th instant, I did myself the pleasure of writing to you, communicating my arrival at this place, and such other particulars as occurred to me. I dispatched my letter the next day to Bombay, via Macaula, under cover to my Agents, to forward to Bengal. I expected now to have been at Hodeida or Lohiea; but within these few days, the wind has shifted decidedly to the North, and we have also had—for Mocha—heavy rain—a very rare occurrence, and which set the whole town in a commotion, or rather kept it very quiet; the shops being for one day entirely shut up, and the people keeping all within their houses:—This Shimal, or North wind, seems likely to last for some days at least—so that there is no chance of leaving Mocha for the present.

Since the dispatch of my letter above alluded to (on the 10th instant) Captain Hutchinson, the Resident here, has received letters from Captain Tanner of the Honorable Company's Cruiser ANTELOPE, from Cosseir, dated the 26th of December last. The ANTELOPE left this, carrying the first half of Sir John Malcolm's party on the 2d of December, and arrived at Cosseir, on the 25th of the same month. The Gentlemen proceeded on their journey to Kenneh. The next day, Captain Tanner expected answers to Letters from Mr. Salt from Cairo, by the 21st of January, for which he was to wait at Cosseir. The messenger who brought Captain Tanner's letters to Captain Hutchinson arrived here two days ago. He is a Servant of one of the Gentlemen (Captain Rose of the Bombay Establishment) who went in the ANTELOPE, and reports that at Cosseir, he *heard* that the Austrians (*Germans—Neemans*) and Russians *together* were at war with the Turks; that the war was carrying on at a distance from Stamboul (most likely Wallachia, or Moldavia) and that they (the Russians and Austrians) had taken possession of 145 villages;—that Mahommed Ali Pasha had ordered into confinement, such Persians as were to be found in Cairo, and in Egypt, on receiving a reply to a communication which he had made to the Court of Persia;—that the Governor of Judda had sent for him (the messenger) four successive times, and in full Durbar to inquire into the cause of two English Vessels, (the ANTELOPE, and TEIGNMOUTH), with Officers on board proceeding up the Red Sea;—that on his answering, the Gentlemen were merely Passengers, proceeding through Egypt to their own country, the Governor replied he did not believe it;—that the Hubshees (Abyssinians) and the Turks at Senaar have been fighting, and that the Hubshees having killed a considerable number of the Turks, preparations were making at Judda for assistance to be

sént to the latter;—that the circumstance of the Gentlemen who went in the ANTELOPE having pitched their tents outside the town of Cosseir (not having, I suppose, been able to procure a habitable abode in it), and Captain Tanner also, while taking the opportunity of his stay there to clear and clean out his vessel, seemed to create uneasiness in the Governor of Judda's mind, coupled with the sailing up of the two vessels.

No news, as yet, of the arrival of the TEIGNMOUTH, (with Sir John Malcolm himself on board) at Cosseir, she may however be expected here daily, having left this on the 20th or 21st December, and the wind being now strong in her favour.

Should she on her arrival bring any news worthy of communication, and another opportunity occur of writing (hence) you may rely on hearing from me."

"On the 9th and 14th instant I wrote to you. The Packet containing the former of my Letters, was dispatched from hence on the 10th instant. The one in which I put the second, was to have gone the same day, but has been detained. The boat which is to convey it to Maculla, sails positively this evening, I therefore take the opportunity of writing these few lines, to say, that a boat has arrived to-day at Mocha, twelve days from Judda, the Nakhooda, of which reports, that he left there, both the ANTELOPE and TEIGNMOUTH cruizers, waiting for a Northerly breeze to bring them down (Sir John Malcolm has of course arrived at Cosseir, and most likely by this time has left Egypt). It is truly provoking, that here I have been detained for a week tomorrow, waiting for a Southerly wind; within the last two days, it has blown a regular "Shimal," and seems likely so to continue.

The TEIGNMOUTH is dispatched from hence, for Muscat and the Persian Gulph. The ANTELOPE remains in the Red Sea. Both, we may hourly expect at Mocha, for they can surely beat down as far as the latitude of Camfidia, (Gupfiddee) where I should think, they would find a Northerly wind waiting for them, at least judging from what we have had.

The Dola of Mocha, this day receives (outside the town) a horse, and a robe of honor, from the Imam of Senna, a guarantee that he is to continue in the Dolaship for another year."

Unprotected State of Oude.

A Letter from Mindyghaut, dated May 22, contains the following intelligence, which is a practical comment on the state of that part of the country in which the occurrence described, took place.

A Gentleman, Mr. C. —, was returning from Cawnpoor to Fattyghur in a Budgerow, only a few days after his marriage, with his wife, his mother, and a young female friend:—when, on the arrival of the Boat off Mindyghaut, the men who were tracking her up on the Oude side of the River were attacked by a party of about 150 ruffians. They first cut the tracking rope, when the Boat began to drift with the stream; but being near shore, the Gentleman sent his Chupprassie to learn the cause of this interruption. The villains knocked him down without ceremony, in presence of the Master; who, seeing this, seized his gun (which was unfortunately unloaded), when the assailants came to close combat, and succeeded in so disabling and securing all on board as to carry their original plan of plunder into effect. In the contest, the Gentleman himself was severely wounded, having his left arm fractured at the shoulder and cut in two below, with large masses of flesh hanging from the shoulder to the elbow. When they had effected their purpose of plundering, the Boat being abandoned was taken to the opposite side of the River at Mindyghaut. Here the party were hospitably sheltered by another Mr. C. —, and as the wounded Gentleman was speechless and in the most imminent danger, with no Medical aid at hand, Bearers were procured to take him instantly on to Fattyghur for Surgical assistance; though, from the severity of the wounds and the state of the weather, great fears were entered for his safety.

If this be not a proof of the unprotected state of the Dominions of the King of Oude, we know not what can be.

British India.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

I have just perused your Extracts from the admirable Treatise of Henry St. George Tucker, on the vast importance of our British Indian possessions, which does equal honor to his head and heart, and I earnestly trust will be fully appreciated by our Legislature. The discernment and reflection Mr. Tucker has evinced on this momentous national subject, will we may hope obtain for him, not merely the thanks of the State, but a more solid proof of the sincerity and gratitude of the nation, by bestowing on him some important distinguished situation, that would enable him to be instrumental in promoting the prosperity, happiness, and security of British India, which would call down the blessings of every true hearted honest Briton, whether in the East or in the West, when once fully apprized of the vast importance of his truly valuable observations and suggestions, on which much might be said, and will, I trust, be brought forward by some who are capable of appreciating and commenting on this grand and important national subject.

I am, Sir, your very obedient Servant,

Calcutta, June 7, 1822.

AN OLD INDIAN.

Fair=Play.

"HE JESTS AT SCARS WHO NEVER FELT A WOUND."

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

Your humorous Correspondent, SI-GIS-MUND, has not denied the existence of the evil complained of, nor attempted to shew that the petty exactions detailed in my letter, are either necessary, or creditable additions to the revenue. He has deemed it unnecessary it appears to do more than to turn both the grievance complained of as well as the class of persons it affects into ridicule, and it is not therefore requisite to trespass long on the patience of your readers in noticing his witty production.

Supposing me, as it seem she does, one of the "peppery" caste of whom it is evident he entertains rather a contemptuous opinion, it is I think rather hard to expect from me, (though I have elicited from the equivocal praise of being a "jewel of a fellow"), at the same time that I point out a palpable absurdity in the Regulations of the Custom House, to suggest the remedy. Yet he calls on me to explain how articles "imported" may be identified with those exported. I shall endeavour to satisfy him in respect at least to most of the articles mentioned in my letter.

First then, I think that Knives and Forks, and Plates and Dishes, that have evidently been long used, when landed from a Country vessel sailing out of this port, may fairly be inferred to have paid the duties when new, and consequently that they may be permitted to pass duty free. Secondly, such articles as common bazar Jars and Tubs made of country wood, that have been also used, stand, I think, in the same predicament, and might be allowed to pass untaxed, without injury to the revenue. Thirdly, as to Wines, Liquors, &c. the difficulty is somewhat greater perhaps; but I submit with deference, that if the quantity allowed to pass free, as the cabin stores of a Commander, were limited, no great injury to the revenue could arise. At Madras, a Commander may land every article of his cabin stores without paying a fraction of duty.

The remedy thus suggested will appear no doubt to SI-GIS-MUND to be but the crude idea of an untutored member of the "peppery" caste. If he can but bring himself to think the subject worthy of him, I have no doubt but that his brilliant genius will speedily strike out something to silence for ever the complaints of the "peppery" tribe, with but a temporary interruption to those "flashes of merriment" with which I am informed he is sometimes "wont to set" even the office desk, "in a roar."

I am, your's, &c.

FAIRPLAY.

Indo-Britons.

"Whatever is opposed to the rational elevation and moral purity of Man, should never obtain a shelter beneath our care; but that system which gives to the Human race their true dignity, and facilitates their advancement in the scale of being, should receive our patronage, and enjoy our co-operative support."—FINCH'S ESSAYS.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

The interest which appears to have been excited by the late discussions on the subject of *meliorating the condition of Indo-Britons*, is a pleasing proof that the question is recognized as one in which the future welfare of not a small portion of the subjects of the British Government in India is deeply involved, and on the judicious management of which their happiness and prosperity must in a great measure depend.

Arrangements directed to promote the public welfare, claim the peculiar care and attention of the State; and accordingly we find our revered and enlightened Ruler, in consonance with this principle, and the suggestions of his own benevolence, voluntarily offering the aid of his power and influence towards promoting the plan for *improving the condition of Indo-Britons*. If the condescension manifested by the Marquis of Hastings on this occasion may be regarded as an indication of the disposition of Government in the same cause, of which there cannot be the least doubt, *Indo-Britons* have the strongest possible of all incentives to rouse them from the inglorious slumber in which they have indulged for nearly a century past, and to co-operate zealously in maturing a project in which their advancement in the scale of being is the chief end consulted.

To those who take an interest in the rising generation, and exult in any and every appearance of a change for the better, in the moral and intellectual condition of their fellow subjects, whatever be the mould or hue in which they are cast, the successful issue, in all its ramifications, of the system projected for the benefit and improvement of *Indo-Britons* in the excellent little pamphlets,* now before the public, must be a consummation gratifying in the highest degree.

Endowed by nature, in common with their forefathers, with faculties susceptible under proper culture and judicious training of the highest exertions, and precluded by no moral or physical disability from participating in those higher departments of utility in civil life which command respect and ensure independence, the *Indo-Briton* is yet, by a perverse destiny, doomed to drag on an unprofitable existence in the performance of a species of manual drudgery at the desk, destructive of health, and requiring no exertion of intellect, with a scanty pittance, hardly earned indeed, but barely adequate to yield the common necessities of life. This is a lamentable, though brief view of the present condition of *Indo-Britons*, but it is one which, with very few exceptions, I believe, will be readily acknowledged to be applicable to the whole body, by those most conversant with the subject. The *English* have been characterized as a nation of shop-keepers, and if distinctive appellations originate in the bias of a people towards any particular calling or profession, *Indo-Britons* ought not to be offended at having been styled a nation of clerks.

To qualify them for being useful members of the community to which they belong, to free them from the state of supineness into which they are fallen, and to rouse them to more active and honorable exertions, to direct them to unexplored sources of wholesome bodily aliment, to lessen their dependence on others, and to inspire them with greater confidence in their own energies; in short, to make them respectable as a body, and estimable as individuals, and to render them worthy of the appellation by which they are now designated, appear to be the tendency of the Treatises to which I have referred. They form a compendium of useful information and beneficial suggestions, highly interesting to *Indo-Britons*, and deserving their most serious consideration.

*By a PRACTICAL REFORMER and by ASIATICUS.

A system of Education founded on principles calculated to secure the objects above described, is a desideratum which cannot be too speedily supplied.

Believing that the solution of the cause which has contributed to paralyze as it were the exertions of *Indo-Britons*, and to confine their sphere of usefulness within the narrow limits of a Counting House, or Public Office, in the humble situation of a mere *Copyist*, will be found, not in any habitual indolence, or inherent incapacity in themselves, but in the paucity of occupations for which, under existing circumstances, they are eligible, it seems highly desirable that their attention should be turned to other sources whence they may derive an honest livelihood, and that a wider field should be opened to them for the exercise of their talents and industry, by the establishment of Institutions where suitable preparatory Instruction may be afforded them. This appears to be the object, to the attainment of which the labours of the PRACTICAL REFORMER, and ASIATICUS are directed; and the plan devised by them to promote this end, while it bears honorable testimony to their ability and judgment, is an unequivocal proof of their solicitude to advance the best interests of their fellow-countrymen. I have heard with much satisfaction that measures have been adopted, and arrangements made, which, if they are supported as they ought to be, and as it is expected they will be, promise by the blessing of Heaven to accomplish all that has been projected.

Every well-wisher to the cause of Humanity, for it is the cause of *Indo-Britons*, will accordingly rejoice in the prospect now before him of witnessing their gradual emancipation, and transition, from a state of comparative insignificance and lamentable depression, as a growing people, to one in the scale of society more compatible with their relative situation and dormant energies; and contemplate with mixed feelings of benevolence and pleasure, their progressive advancement to a condition in which their utility as a body will be acknowledged, their character respected, their services duly appreciated and rewarded, and their independence secured and confirmed.

The glorious work is already begun; and *Indo-Britons* will, I trust, unite heart and hand in giving it their warmest support. The proverbial liberality of *Britons* will not permit it to languish for want of adequate patronage. Our interests are identified with their's, and in succouring the descendants of their countrymen, they, in fact, do no more than consult their own honor. They are bound, therefore, in justice to themselves, not only to approve, but to promote, by their counsels and influence, all our laudable aims and views; and if they will but act their part, the consummation of our hopes may be regarded as no longer problematical. Thus supported and encouraged, disappointment might be defied, and success ultimately crown our honest endeavours. The time may yet be distant, and I may be "gathered to my fathers" ere it arrive; but were I permitted, during the brief space I have to sojourn in this "Vale of Tears," to witness that cordial, parental support given to the cause of *Indo-Britons* which they have an inalienable right to expect from the nation of their forefathers, the reflection that I leave to my countrymen and to my children a richer and more valuable inheritance than fell to the lot of their fathers, will smooth my passage to eternity, disarm death of its sting, and make me bless the hour when I was born an *Indo-Briton*.

To you, Sir, our thanks are due for the ready admission which our crude productions have obtained in your valuable and widely-circulated Paper. We are sensible that our communications, abstracted from the importance (to us at least) of the subject on which they treat, have neither merit to engage attention, nor variety to recommend them to the majority of your Readers. Our obligation to you becomes thereby proportionably greater.

Allow me therefore to acquit myself of my share, by tendering you my best acknowledgments for your kindness, and to express a hope that they will not be thought the less sincere, because of the anonymous source whence they proceed.

A POOR SCRIBE.

ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

—577—

Selections from Yesterday's Papers.

From the India Gazette.

Letter from the Cape.—An esteemed friend has favored us with the sight of a letter from the Cape, written in March, which mentions the arrival there some six weeks before, of the Crew and Passengers of the chartered ship *Blanchard Hall*, Captain Gingo, from the Island of Tristan D'Acunha. It seems that they suffered in an aggravated degree, all the hardships of shipwreck,—and that indeed to an extent that is even romantic. The letter we have seen merely notices the event generally, so that we are not able to give such specific particulars as we might wish. The unfortunates lived for two months on the Island of Tristan D'Acunha, supported by the scanty means of the very few inhabitants. However, it was a blessed change after the manner in which they roughed it out, and the short commons, or the almost starvation which they had experienced on Inaccessible Island, on which they had been totally wrecked in a fog, (we believe about the month of July last.) We have not heard of the exact number, but only very few lives were lost. Amongst the party were four ladies, some very barely clad when the accident happened. One of them was the mother of an infant, three months old. During their stay upon the Island Inaccessible (which fortunately did not prove so in the end to them,) they had no bread or vegetables. For the first two or three days they had no fire, and for food only some raw hams which had floated ashore. Afterwards they subsisted upon Penguins, their Eggs, Seals, and lastly Sea Elephants, which they began to dread were going to quit them altogether, and so leave them to the horrors of famine; when, they contrived by means of raft, and a whale boat or two, to get to Tristan D'Acunha. Most of them had landed in a naked, or half naked state, but luckily some bales of cloth and pieces of canvas floated on shore, which, with the assistance of Seal skins, served to clothe and house them. Their appearance on landing at the Cape is described as having been truly Robinson Crusoe, especially the ladies with their Seal skin caps, and some clad in suits made of sky blue cloth. A few of the party were to remain at the Cape, the rest meant to proceed to Bombay by the brig *Johnson*.

Bank of Bengal.—We are happy to hear, that the Directors of the Bank of Bengal have come to a resolution to apply to Government for permission to extend their Capital.

With a view to the efficiency of the Institution as a machine for facilitating Commercial, Financial and other operations, this, as well as some other modifications of the original Charter of the Bank, have long been considered by many intelligent persons as essentially requisite.

It seems indeed questionable whether the existence of a public Bank, with such limited means of accommodation as the Bank of Bengal has hitherto been empowered to afford, be not as frequently productive of inconvenience as of advantage.

Supposing, for example, a period should occur, when no mercantile operations are in progress of sufficient magnitude to require the employment of all the Cash of a House of business. The merchant or mercantile agent rather than lock up his funds unproductively, invests them in the purchase of public securities;—principally in the confidence that when money is again required for Commercial purposes, he can obtain it from the Bank on deposit of his Government notes. This is a case particularly apt to occur with a view to the Company's periodical Sales; in as much as the extent of this agent's purchases on these occasions is generally dependent entirely on the eventual price of the article, and he is therefore not disposed to hoard before hand barren coin, which after all may not be required. When the day arrives however, that cash is not only useful but necessary, he probably finds that the circulation of the Bank of Bengal having already reached its limited extent, no more accommodations can be granted by it, not even were a deposit of Bullion to be tendered as security;—and as the operations of the Bank are closely watched by the private money-dealers in the Bazar, the merchant on applying in that quarter, is reduced to the necessity of either paying an exorbitant rate of Interest, or of selling his Government paper at a heavy loss. This, as we have lately seen, gives rise to a general alarm amongst the native holders of Company's Paper, and thus are occasioned those violent fluctuations in the price of public securities, which have led to the loss of many, and even to the utter ruin of some respectable Shroffs.

While the Directors are thus laudably employed in the revision of their Charter, we trust they will not forget the removal of that absurd restriction, which limits to a single lac of Rupees, the extent of accommodation that can be afforded, even on deposit, to any one Mercantile House.

We know that there are some of the Calcutta houses, the usual course of whose transactions employs funds to the extent of upwards of a crore of Rupees each.—This being the fact, nothing can be more nugatory or ridiculous than to limit to one lac the amount of accommodation

which a public Bank is allowed to afford to such mercantile houses; even on deposit of Bullion, and when the funds of the Bank are otherwise unemployed.

That loans on personal credit require to be limited, common prudence dictates; and the same monitor will readily suggest that what may be safely risked on the security of one man, would be in great jeopardy if depending for its repayment on the security of another. But why there should be such a restriction where the credit of the borrower is nowise concerned, and all that is to be looked to, is the sufficiency of the pledged deposits for the repayment of the loan we are at a loss to understand.

Where the capital of a Bank is insufficient to enable it to supply the occasions of the public for loans on deposit, it ought evidently to be increased, and experience is the best guide to point out the due limit. It is evident too, that so long as the capital Stock of the Bank does not exceed the extent that is adequate to support the circulation for which the wants of the community can find employment, the profits of shares are not liable to be diminished by such increase of the funds on which dividends are to be made.

On the contrary, if full employment can be found for a capital of a crore of Rupees, the profits on each of the 1000 shares into which it is divided, ought to be somewhat greater than at present, where 500 shares have to bear the whole expence of the establishment.

We have no doubt that it is owing to the general approbation of the measures now in progress, that the premium on Bank shares has lately risen from 23 per cent. to 40, which we hear was the price asked on Saturday.

Oude.—Let it be glossed over as it best can, by those paid for the same, but verily it appeareth that all is not right in Oude. "Something's rotten in the state of Denmark." From the little we saw of him ourselves, and from what we have heard from others, we believe the King of that country to be a good man, and an accomplished Prince—but, it is pretty certain, that there are abuses in his dominions, which call loudly for redress. However loudly they may call for reform, care will be taken that the cry of the distressed shall not reach his Majesty; for if report says true, he is surrounded by those whose interest it is to keep away all disagreeable petitioners. So far from deeming it a reproach to the present Minister to have risen from a subordinate situation, we think it a matter of honest boast to himself, and congratulation on the part of his friends and dependents, provided he has attained his elevation honorably and honestly, which, be it remembered, we do not gainsay, there being no proof to the contrary. His great rise from a lowly estate then, can be no cause of legitimate reproach; but it much behoves a man who has so risen, to be very guarded in his conduct, and so to demean himself as not to make the poorer classes imagine themselves oppressed on one hand, or to give room to the ancient nobility and respectable gentry to consider themselves slighted, neglected, or insulted, on the other. We owe this minister no favor: we therefore utter our opinions bluntly, or rather insinuate them; for we cannot be so frank or explicit as the subject could well admit of. We owe him no favor; and if we did, we should not flatter him;—in all likelihood he has enough of that from his creatures.—Nay, more: we believe that this man has done a friend, who is very dear to us, all the injury in his power. It may be concluded then, that we cannot feel very favorably towards him; but barring the last mentioned circumstance, we solemnly avow that we have no reason on private grounds to be discontented with this man's conduct. If it shall be asked, then, how it comes within our province to mention him at all—our answer is, *Homo sum nihil a me alienum puto*. It is not in the nature of a public writer, with the feelings of a man, to hear tales of misery, oppression, and misrule whispered about, without noticing them in some way. Such exist, perhaps, in most parts of the world—we say not where. If Oude is without a proper Police, and if irregularity prevails, is it surprising, when even within the Royal palace there is discord? Is not the Prince Royal of Oude by law his father's Minister? Is not the Prince Royal of Oude of age? Is he Minister? We may be told so—but who will believe it? No—he is not minister—he has no power, and he has no favour. If a coolness exist between the son and the father, whose fault is that? We say not whose fault it is, but we know that we could be answered without going far for a response. We owe the King of Oude no allegiance more than we do to the King of Siam. For the King of Oude we have respect: as for his Minister he is a Minister—and we believe ourselves a Whig. Does he suppose, then, that while the conduct of one of the first functionaries in England, is open to discussion, by every free-born Englishman. Does he suppose, that when the noble—the courteous the polished—the able—the comprehensive, and the manly Lord Palmerston may be criticised and perhaps intemperately so, by public writers, that he can escape by some privilege or legal domain? No—the Press has many eyes and many ears, and Lucknow begins to feel it has. We have waited and waited in hopes of seeing some explanation of circumstances formerly advanced. We have seen none, except one puerile attempt by a native hand, in the *CALCUTTA JOURNAL*,

and a still more puerile thing in the *JOURNAL* of Saturday last, by one who signs himself an *ODDITY*, and who instead of offering explanations, or clearing up obscurities, threatens his opponent with the Supreme Court! In our first page is a letter relative to Oude, translated from the *JAMI JEHAN NOOMA*, kindly sent by an unknown Correspondent.

Theatricals.—On Friday evening MORTON'S Comedy of the "Way to get Married" was performed at the Chowringhee Theatre; and although the inclemency of the weather prevented a number of persons from witnessing the comic powers of the piece, the house, upon the whole, might be pronounced a pretty tolerable one. The MARQUESS and MARCHIONESS OF HASTINGS entered their box about a quarter before 8 o'clock, accompanied by Major General REYNOLDS, and in about five minutes the curtain drew up, and the piece was opened by *Dick Daskall* in a good scene with the Landlord. The *Dick Daskall* is a character so universally known and well portrayed by Mr. FAWCET from its birth, that to expatiate here upon its merits or demerits, would be tedious to the reader. Suffice it to say, that the Amateur who played it on Friday evening, made his *debut* in the same character some months back, on the Chowringhee Boards; and it is with great pleasure we observe that nothing has been lost by his repetition: it was acted throughout with style and animation, quite equal, if not surpassing, his other performances, in the same line of character. The part of Mr. Query was sustained by an Amateur, in whose behalf the critic's severity ought to be deprecated, by the circumstance of this being his first appearance on any stage:—we can only say with sincerity, that we have seldom seen a novice manifest so much self-possession. His figure and conception of the character, were good; and we have not the least doubt, that after a little more experimental study, this gentleman will be found a great acquisition to the boards of Chowringhee. *Cautious* was personated by the Sully of the *Road to Ruin*, and it is with great pleasure we see this gentleman on his theatrical legs again. We think him extremely happy and correct in these old parts, and only hope that he will continue in the same style of character whenever occasion requires his assistance. Let him strive to keep up his voice at a more even tenor.

Tangent, a favorite character of the celebrated Lewis, was personated by an Amateur, whose reputation in Comedy and Farce, is too well known to need further eulogium. From his versatility of talent, we may almost entitle him as the actor of all work. He is always ready and good in any thing he undertakes. The *Tangent* was played in the very best style, and afforded the audience a good opportunity of exciting their risible muscles and bestowing their applause. *Toby Allspice* was inimitable. Munden's most enthusiastic admirers, could never have been better pleased with their *Old favourite* than the audience were with the gentleman who filled the part of *Toby Allspice*. The scene with *Daskall*, and the *Yoyou* was quite perfect, and satisfied the audience that the comic powers of this gentleman are still in existence, and as long as he continues to support the Theatre with his fund of humour, we must naturally look forward to its success and perpetuity. *Captain Falkner* was admirably sustained by an Amateur who has ever rendered himself a considerable acquisition to the Chowringhee Theatre. His interviews with his daughter were exceedingly interesting and did not fail to call forth approbation from those who witnessed them.

The parts of *Julia*, *Falkner*, *Miss Clementina Allspice*, were supported with great spirit. The *Landlord*, the *Bailiff* and *Servants* performed their parts very creditably.

From the Jam Jehan Numa.—On the 21st of Shaban of the present year, Mostamudood Dowlah Behadar went with the Deewan Mewaram, grandson of Rajah Dyacrisheh, deceased, on an invitation, of hearing the monthly assembly of Poets (who meet for the purpose of reading their compositions) to the abode of Sheik Ahmud, the Arab, who was formerly employed in the College of Calcutta, and spent two hours in seeing the dancing. On retiring he accepted the trays presented on this occasion by Sheik Ahmud, on whom he conferred a khilant with jeegah and serpeish, a pearl necklace, a shield and sword, also an elephant with silver howdah, this (Sheik Ahmud is a *Printer*, Mr. Editor, but a more fortunate one than yourself, he ingratiated himself into the King's favor, I hear, by some particular business performed by him, not in procuring fresh fonts of Types, but something for the Seraglio) and the usual khilant to Kausse Mohumud Saduck Khan, who in the time of the late Nowab Sandut ullee Khan, was confined at Lucknow for some misdemeanor, (being concerned, whether innocently or otherwise is best known to his accuser, who is also at Lucknow, in the intrigue of Mirza Junglee, who was expelled to Patna) and then departed. On the day following, Sheik Ahmud and Kausse Mohumud Saduck presented three kishtes (or trays) to His Majesty, which were (graciously) accepted. Sally, who formerly was in the keeping of some English Gentleman (General Claud Martin) and is now in the mahl of Mirza Mousaffer Bukht, son of His Highness the Prince Mirza Solymam Shekoh, had a daughter, who was privately given over to Nosseerood Deen Hyder Meerza, (the heir apparent of Oudh) at which Mostamudood Dowlah being displeased (for reasons best known to himself) caused the said Sally and Mirza Mousaffer Bukht

(grandson of the late Shah Allom) to be turned out of the city!!!! Meerza Mousaffer Bukht proceeded in a most wretched and distressing state to Cawnpore, and Meerza Solymam Shekoh (the father of Mousaffer Bukht and brother of the present King of Delhi, Akber the 3d,) left his house (in the city) and took up his residence at his Garden House, which is near the Naka of Allomnuggur. Sheodcen, a person belonging to Gholam Hooseyn Khan, the Durgha, has been killed, his murderer is not known. A royal order has been issued, that none of His Majesty's brothers or any of the courtiers should appear armed, that the servants of the presence should only have arms when accompanying His Majesty in the Sowaree, but to disarm themselves immediately on their return. Khoja Mahmood, through the influence of Mostamudood Dowlah Behadar, has been appointed Kutwall of the Khas Bazar, the former Kutwall has been dismissed.

There is great want of proper management in Oudh. *Lallah Baurkunge*, (perhaps established by the moonshoe of the Residency), has been reduced to a desert; that Zemindars have plundered the Ryotts and fled;—property to the amount of thousands of rupees belonging to Beoparees, is deposited in the kothee of the Lallah, through the fear and danger of its being plundered it cannot be sent to Elahabad, where daily reports of Dacoites prevail;—the collection of the Revenues of Oudh is making very slowly and the khazana under charge of Goolzaree Mull has become empty—several months of arrears of pay are due to the Sepoys and to the mihuls of the late Shooja ood Dowlah, Asaf-ood Dowlah and Soudut Ulee Khan.

In compliance with the representation of the Mostamudood Dowlah, the royal order was issued to Captain Futeh Ulee Khan, to give the amount of pay due, from the Treasury under his charge. The Captain delivered up the keys to the presence and stated that the revenues of the country and the money of the treasury were all expended, what avail would the small amount under his charge be, to meet the expenses of the presence, that His Majesty might bestow the keys on any person he pleased, the king being much gratified at the frankness of the Captain, returned the keys of the khazana to him and desired him not to give a single corrie to any one—the house of Mirza Sekunder Shekoh is knocking down, and Peerbox Chobdar, who has been placed by His Majesty over the Minister, does not report to the presence the distressed state of the City.—*India Gazette*.

Extract of a Letter from Sydney.

From the *Herald*.

About this time (1818) the Governor's cruel treatment towards that pious and highly respected Gentleman, the Rev. Mr. S. Marsden, called forth general disapprobation; the tenor of which, you may no doubt have seen in the public prints for 1819, when Messrs. Bennet and Wilberforce brought the subject before the House of Commons. But to return to Mr. Flin.—His first interview with the Governor promised much assistance, by the kind treatment and warm assurances that were held out, to promote the object of his Mission to that remote quarter of the world. The Governor, however, on reconsideration, suspected he had said too much, or at least as much as might be construed into inconsistency or partiality by quarrelling with the one Rev. personage, and aiding and assisting the other. Hostilities accordingly commenced against Mr. Flin, and he was peremptorily told to quit the colony, on the plea of his having no licence to remain there. To this, Mr. Flin, remonstrated; urging that he was a British subject, and that by — of Geo. III. it is lawful for any British subject to reside in any British Colony, situated beyond 10 Degrees South. The Governor replied, that he would sanction only one Religion in the Colony, and suggested the propriety of his returning by the same ship in which he came; at the same time remarking, that he was not a fit subject for Botany Bay.

The Priest rejoined "where am I then fit for? when the Law says, if a culprit is not fit for the Gallows, send him to Botany Bay—I have ventured here, Governor, at considerable expence and with a great deal of trouble, to render myself useful to my countrymen, now buried in ignorance—and before I have even had sufficient time to refresh myself, after an unpleasant voyage, it is rather hurtful to the feelings of any one, conscious of his own rectitude, as I am, to be told by His Majesty's representative that I am unworthy to be the associate of Thieves, Robbers and Assassins." On hearing this, the Governor appeared to lose his usual TEMPERATE MILDNESS, and strongly reprimanded the severity of Mr. Flin's language towards his friends and Colonists; then ordered him to be in readiness when called upon, to embark on board the *Warrington*. Prior to the sailing of this Vessel, the Catholic community strongly recommended their Priest to remain incognito, till the Vessel had sailed, which he complied with. But on making his appearance thereafter, he was severely admonished by the Governor, and as the Ship *DAVID SHAW* was then laying on, for England, an Official Ordinance

was sent him, purporting the determination of Government, that he should repair on board that Vessel on a certain day, as Government had provided for the expence of his passage to England—Mr. Flin received this coolly and intimated his intention of non-compliance; whereupon he was forcibly seized in his own house and dragged away by a nest of convict Constables, and lodged among the basest outcasts of the United Kingdom, in the common Jail.

It was really a ridiculous farce, to observe the trump'd up ceremony; to see the Poor Padre, escorted at 2 o'clock in the morning by 800 Soldiers under the specious pretext of his countrymen attempting a rescue.

After all the trouble his late Excellency had taken here, to convince the Government at home, that Mr. Marsden's statements were without foundation in many instances and highly erroneous in others, it appeared necessary, in justification of his own character, and in vindication of his arbitrary measures, that his vengeance must light somewhere, and accordingly Mr. Flin was selected as a proper object to endure the dire wrath of offended dignity. In the heat of this affair, Mr. Marsden took the precaution to address his friends in England, and expatiated freely on the passing events, as also on what he conceived to be the arbitrary measures, not of Government, but those of an individual, whose word was fate.

He at the same time, strongly recommended the utility of having a Catholic Priest resident here, and this representation met the approbation of the Government in England, that General MacQuarie's exertions in sending Mr. Flin out of the colony was rewarded by the sending out of two new Roman Catholic Priests, the Rev. Messrs. J. Thor and Philip Conolly, with instructions to pay them, each £180 per annum, along with this salutary advice, that they should on no account be wantonly insulted, and that it was highly reprehensive to imprison a respectable and inoffensive member of society, barely on the plea of his being a Catholic Priest. These two Gentlemen are men of considerable ability, and education, having received their degrees from the College of Maynooth. Mr. Flin awaits the late Governor's arrival in England, when it is rumoured, there is some likelihood of his having a pretty long account to settle with Lord Pingal, and various others of rank and distinction, for this unmerited insult he has from time to time bestowed on the Church of Rome.

Bank of Bengal.

To the Editor of John Bull.

Sir,

I observe by a notice in your Paper, that it is proposed to double the capital of the Bank of Bengal.

I am yet scarcely out of my *Griffnage*, and you may therefore think, that I should allow the concerns of the Bank, involving, as they do, so many different interests and considerations, to remain entirely in the hands of those, who have the advantage of much more experience; I take the liberty, however, to offer a few remarks, some of which, I must confess, occur to me as deserving of consideration on the present occasion.

Banks in Europe, though established for private benefit, have always this essential and national advantage resulting from them. They are of great use in times of scarcity of money to the commercial Community: Every respectable Merchant, for instance, keeps an open account with his Banker, and it is a tacit agreement between them, that the former is always to have Bills or Promissory Notes, arising out of bonafide Commercial transactions, discounted to a certain and understood amount; and on this support he relies confidently in making an estimate of his "Ways and Means." The Banker, on the other hand, is regularly called on for the understood advance, and thus he secures a regular employment for part of his capital. Under these circumstances he, generally speaking, does not go out of the way of his regular business of discounting Bills, to support Stock-Jobbers, nor any other class of speculators to an excessive extent.

I have heard it often asserted, on the contrary, that the Bank of Bengal, instead of being of use to Commercial men in this way, has often been the primary cause of the sudden fluctuations which have taken place in the money market in Calcutta: whereas the Directors should consider the Bank to have been established by Government, more for the general convenience of the Community, than for the special advantage of the Proprietors, and should in consequence reckon it their incumbent duty to avoid any measure likely to bring about a sudden change in the value of the circulating Medium of Bengal, or of Government Paper. It was for this reason chiefly, I conceive, that Government placed three of its servants in the direction; and it should, I presume, be the particular province of these Gentlemen to see that no measure be undertaken by the Bank, that may be inimical to the real interest of any part of the Community at large.

I now venture the following remarks on the state of the Bank as at present constituted and managed.

In looking into the annual Directory for the present year I observe that the Direction is composed as follows: Three Civil Servants, appointed by Government (I approve of the appointment of these Gentlemen for the reasons just stated) Three private Bankers, who have a direct interest, in carrying all the good business they see going to the Bengal Bank to their own private Establishments. The other three Directors are unexceptionable, but as any three form a Quorum, the three last referred to need seldom be consulted.

Far be it from me to insinuate that such advantage, as above stated, is in reality taken by any of the private Bankers now in the Direction; but it appears to me that such advantage *might* be taken, and I conceive therefore that no private Banker should be admitted into the Direction of the Bank of Bengal.

In the next place I conceive it to be improper, that the important situation of Secretary to the Bank should, as at present appears to be the custom, devolve on any Civilian who may be appointed "Accountant in the Commercial Department." I maintain that to be capacitated for such a situation, a man should have spent a great part of his life in the study of Commercial affairs; in the study of the causes which regulate the price of the circulating medium of a State; the causes of the variation of Exchange, &c. and should also be well acquainted with the value of every description of Property in Calcutta;—with the nature and extent of the Speculations going forward; the risk attending them, and the nature and extent of the Property of the Parties concerned in such Speculations, as well as with their characters, general credit, &c. Now all this, I maintain, is only to be acquired by long experience; and whatever be the other qualifications of a young Civilian at the time he enters upon his Office of Secretary to the Bank, it is out of the nature of things that he can be thoroughly capacitated for his undertaking.

It is well known to most of your Commercial Readers resident in Calcutta, to what extent the natives sometimes speculate in Government Paper. One native lately, whose whole Property does not amount to more than a Lac of Rupees, on his own Credit with the Funds raised from the Bank on deposit of Company's Paper in different names, had invested, I am told, in Government Paper upwards of eight Lacs of Rupees: the whole of which is, or was lately in the Bank. His Creditors, however, on hearing to what extent he had carried his Speculations, began to press him for the several sums due to them, and he is now in consequence unable to meet his engagements. The Promissory notes granted to the Bank will soon be due, and if they be not taken up, all his Paper must be thrown at once on the Market, and produce probably a further fall in the value of Government Securities. Great care should be taken in future to avoid encouraging such excessive Speculations on the part of the natives, and if there were a few natives in the Direction, as herein after proposed, such a case as the above might not, I think, occur again.

I now come to state my objections to an increase in the Capital of the Bank to the enormous amount proposed.

The Circulating medium of this great Emporium of wealth, is not half so great as most of your European Readers would suppose: Hence the accession to, or detraction from, it, of 20 or 30 Lacs of Rupees, has always a very sensible effect on the value of money in the Bazar. I may mention, for instance, that I believe there has not lately been an extra call for money in the Bazar to a greater extent than 30 Lacs of Rupees namely "Bills on the Farruckabad and other Treasuries lately brought at the Calcutta Treasury..... Lacs 16

"Extra payments for Opium, owing to the high price it brought at the Sales of 1821-22..... 29
"Ditto for Salt owing to ditto at two last sales..... 7

Lacs 51

But from the extra money for Opium, should be deducted the extra sums received since October last from China, for Opium shipped in 1821, owing to the increase on the usual current price there..... 20

Leaves estimated real detraction from the Market..... Lacs 31

The circumstances just mentioned I consider important in my case; because if an addition be made to the Capital of the Bank, the Directors will always have it in their power to raise a fictitious Scarcity, and thus, at pleasure, occasion distress and trouble to the Merchant, who from particular circumstances and the past conduct of the Bank may have been induced to lean more on it for assistance than its after conduct would warrant. Great care should be taken to avoid drawing Merchants into a snare of this kind in future. It is, above all, the increase of this mischievous influence that I deprecate in the increase of the Bank Stock and I sincerely hope that an increase of such influence may not be put by Government into the hands of any small number of men whatever: the late sudden rise in the Bank rates of Interest I should feel inclined to consider an extraordinary and perhaps ill advised measure—if it so happened that the Directors had, at the time the rise was

declared, got rid of nearly all their disposable Funds, it would surely have been better for the Community if Public Notice had been given thereof, than that the measure complained of had been resorted to.

I would venture to propose, as remedies to the present evils,

1. That no Private Banker be eligible as a Director of the Bengal Bank.

2. That no man be eligible as a Director (except the three appointed by Government) who has not at least three Shares in the Bank, and that when three Directors only are to meet as a Quorum, not more than one of these three should be one of those appointed by Government.

3. Though Natives are not excluded by the Regulations from being Directors, still there are few of the respectable Natives of Calcutta who would stand up as Candidates for the Direction against an European Gentleman. I would therefore recommend that there be hereafter three Native Directors, to be ballotted for separately, and exclusive of the present European Directors, but to act in concert with them.

4.—I conceive that the affairs of the Bank would be managed with more privacy if the Directors were to meet twice a week for the purpose of transacting business, than when minutes are circulated, as at present, because every thing is, according to the present system, laid open to the inspection of the inferior Officers of the Bank and in fact, to any one who may take the trouble to enquire.

5.—All proposals for discount should be sent into the Bank, addressed to the Committee of Directors, under sealed cover, and only opened in presence of a Quorum of the Directors, which Quorum to be constituted as already suggested, and to meet twice a week.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

Calcutta, June 3, 1832.

FERGUS MCLIVOR.

P.S.—It will be nearly impossible, during the existence of the Present Regulations for the Proprietors of the Bank to keep private Bankers out of the Direction; because these said private Bankers will always league together to vote for one another at General Meetings, and as even one of these Banking Houses acts as proxy for no fewer than 40, and others to nearly the same number of absent proprietors, it will be almost impossible to out-vote them.—Perhaps the best way will be to do away with proxy votes altogether.

Canteens.

To the Editor of John Bull.

SIR, I have been much pleased by the perusal of a letter in the JOURNAL of the 25th ultimo, signed "A SOLDIER" and "a friend to the responsibility of the Corps to which he has the honor to belong." I have no hesitation in saying, (notwithstanding that he is rather too severe on the Artillery in particular) that any Corps must be honoured in having such a man a member of it, and believe, that had we a number of such Non-commissioned Officers, in all the Corps of the Service, the casualty Lists would assume a very different appearance. At all events, it ought to be voted, that this worthy individual, "has deserved well of his country," and I should like much to hear of his appointment as Bazar Sergeant, at any place where a Corps of Europeans is stationed. In addition to what he has stated, I will mention a few of the methods adopted by the men, and their wives, to evade the restrictions against the importation and collection of liquor for the purposes of "Retail." From a station, not a hundred miles from Chunar, it is customary to detach a party of women to Calcutta, either for the ostensible object of seeing their children safely conveyed to the Orphan School, to take charge of those who are marriageable, from the School, or any other pretext equally plausible. The return of this detachment is anxiously looked for. They arrive, but before they have reached Cantonments, a plentiful supply of the "Summan Bonum" is landed, and snugly buried in places of security to be afterwards retailed, as stated by the "SOLDIER." It has been attempted, to compel the men, to drink their drams on the spot where it is served out; to prevent accumulation by sober men; who prefer money to grog; these sober men, have been known to receive their quota in their mouths, and after deposit it in the bottle; this is purchased without the least scruple by others? I have known a Rheastle detected, in carrying to the Barracks a quantity of Bazar liquor, which nearly filled his Bag. It is not uncommon, when they look out, is rather strict, to convey liquor into the Barracks, in a Magnum bottle, having a little oil on the top of the contents. I have often heard of liquor being conveyed into Hospitals, (which are surrounded by high walls) through the drains; and I have the best authority for stating, that large pots of liquor have been conveyed over a high wall, placed in the Privy, and resorted to, by those concerned, as long as their legs could carry them to the deposit. In short, sick or well, they will do any thing and use any means to obtain it. Europeans dislike being sent into Hospital, and when attacked by a fever or any other serious complaint, they "get drunk" to drive it off. The consequence may easily be con-

ceived. Many of them who perhaps avoid liquor for six months, happen to meet with a friend after a long absence, attend a wedding, or a funeral, a christening, or the celebration of a birth-day, and they take a drop too much; on the morrow they feel ill, and are induced to take an extra glass, to do away with the effects of the debauch; they continue to feel indisposed, and get Tipsy, by way of remedying the evil; next day they are worse; they deem it necessary then to get in liquor, the day after, they get drunk, the following day beastly drunk, and so they go on. I have known them fifteen days in this state, during the whole of which time, not a morsel of solid food has been swallowed, nor have they ever left their Cots except to attend a Morning Parade. The Coggee house or Hospital receives them, and after an attack of the "horrors," if they escape worse consequences, they may remain sober for a long period. Is it wonderful that men die, under those circumstances? The measures recommended by the "SOLDIER" to remedy this "crying evil" are in my opinion very proper to be adopted, but never can succeed to any extent, for 'tis too true, that "they can baffle all search" and they will not hesitate to risk their lives to ensure success.

In my humble opinion therefore, nothing can be so effectual in the first place, as to do away in toto, with all "allowance of liquor," both to prevent the accumulation of it for "Retail" and supersede the necessity of a man drinking when he happens to have a disinclination to it. I would propose, that an allowance in money, be granted to every man in lieu of his liquor, to the full value of the Article, I would recommend the Establishment of a Canteen, under the superintendence of the Adjutant and Officer of the day, managed by a steady, trust-worthy Non-commissioned officer, such as the "SOLDIER" where the best liquor was only allowed to be vended, and which should be permitted to be kept open, only for a certain time each day; every man who chose to purchase, being allowed only a certain quantity; and none authorized to be carried away, without the express sanction of the Officer, and on the responsibility of one man in particular.

Europeans will have liquor; nothing can prevent it; it must therefore be a desirable object, they should have it of a good quality and in a limited quantity, at a reasonable rate; that they may not be seduced to the alternative of procuring a deleterious composition, of Mowah Spirit, Chillies, and Rhung, which they commonly resort to.

I am aware, however, that even the plan I have proposed, cannot be effectual, if other means are not attended to.

It will of course become the interest of the person in charge of the Canteen, to prevent the clandestine importation of liquor, but much will depend on the exertion of the Officers, in preventing the men from visiting the liquor shops, in the vicinity of every Cantonment, which they will still be eager to do, with the view of procuring a cheaper, and more intoxicating beverage. I am also aware, that it is impossible, altogether, to prevent liquor being procured in various ways, and retailed in the Barracks, at hours when the Canteen is not open. Men who are determined to drink at all hours, will not object to give four annas for a dram, rather than wait till the regular time, when they could procure good liquor at one fourth of that price. All I contend for is, the policy of endeavoring to lessen the evil, and make it attended with as few bad consequences as possible; and for this purpose, have I proposed a measure which might promote the general good, leaving a few incorrigibles to their fate. Much more might be said on the subject, but I suspect you will be inclined to think that I have already occupied too much of your Paper in one day.

Bengal, June 3, 1832.

VALE

Shipping Departures.

CALCUTTA.

| Date | Names of Vessels | Flags | Commanders | Destinations |
|--------|------------------|---------|------------|--------------|
| June 9 | St. Antonio | British | W. Spiers | Batavia |

Stations of Vessels in the River.

JUNE 9, 1832.

At Diamond Harbour.—St. THOMAS MAJOR (P.)—ARROW, outward bound, remains.

New Anchorage.—H. M. S. TEEB.—H. C. Ship EARL OF BALCARNA, and SIR DAVID SCOTT.—HARRIET.—LADY FLORA.

A Ship inward bound, standing in below the Light-House, supposed to be the GANGES, Chivers, returned with the loss of all her masts.

Marriage.

On the 8th instant, at St. John's Cathedral, by the Reverend J. PARSON, EDWARD S. ELLIS, Esq. Marine Pay Master, to MARGARET, daughter of the late JAMES INGLIS, Esq. of Jamaica.